

## Local Character and Heritage

### LOCAL CHARACTER

#### Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority

**K12. Managing change and growth in a way that conserves and enhances Ku-ring-gai's unique visual and landscape character**

### BACKGROUND

Ku-ring-gai's unique natural landscape is due to its elevated position in Sydney's north, high rainfall, alluvial soils, deep gullies, 177kms of waterways and creeks and three major water sub-catchments feeding into Sydney Harbour and the Hawkesbury River Estuary.

The area adjoins three National Parks (Ku-ring-gai Chase, Garigal and Lane Cove) and contains significant urban forests and tracts of local bushland as well as a visually significant tree canopy across both natural and urban areas. These landscape features give the area distinctive natural beauty and differentiates Ku-ring-gai from other parts of Sydney.

Ku-ring-gai's urban areas developed as a series of villages along the main ridgelines, each with their own identity, and bounded by or close to large tracts of natural bushland, creek systems and national parks. While subdivision and residential development have connected the villages into larger suburbs over time, their distinct characteristics still largely remain intact. Each suburb has its own unique character reflecting the local natural bushland, heritage conservation areas or more recent post war development.

The established tree canopy in Ku-ring-gai is a defining characteristic and essential to the 'look and feel' of Ku-ring-gai. Street trees are also an important part of this open space landscape of Ku-ring-gai. They provide shade and aesthetic value, relief from heat stress, habitat for fauna and create corridors for their movement. Good management of our street trees will need to continue to protect and enhance wildlife habitats.

Ku-ring-gai has a strong legacy of heritage fabric including items and places of strong historical, social and architectural value. Both European and Aboriginal heritage is respected and provides a sense of living history and a physical link to the work and way of life of earlier generations.

The St Ives Showground Precinct is an area within Ku-ring-gai with significant local character. The site contains large canopy trees and pockets of bushland within the site. The

position of the site on the ridge provides views through Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and surrounding bushland. The landscape of the precinct has evolved through its various functions as both an army camp, showground and recreation space. The character of the precinct is contained in the diversity of the natural and built elements, and the spaces and views between them.

The physical appearance of Ku-ring-gai, the connectedness of green leafy areas encompassing both public and private lands and the physical location of urban areas within a well-defined geographic boundary, have been critical contributory factors to a sense of place.

Council has put in place a comprehensive suite of planning controls, guidelines and initiatives to ensure new development does not detrimentally impact on Ku-ring-gai's unique landscape and heritage character. Population growth and urban change present major challenges for all levels of government. Population growth and residential development, proposed in the North District Plan, will require Council to review its current plans and controls. The responses need to ensure that new development continues to protect Ku-ring-gai's unique character, achieves quality design outcomes and makes a positive contribution to Ku-ring-gai's liveability.

### STRATEGIC RESPONSE

While Council has over time developed a comprehensive suite of planning controls aimed at ensuring new development does not detrimentally impact on Ku-ring-gai's unique landscape and heritage character, there is relatively less in the way of mapping, formalised policies or strategies in place to protect scenic and cultural landscapes. Some zoning has considered scenic values, for example an objective of the E4 Environmental Living zone within the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 is "to provide for low-impact residential development in areas with special ecological, scientific or aesthetic values". Currently Council's

approach is a case-by-case merit assessment system. Scenic and cultural landscapes are included in some Council plans of management for parks, sportsgrounds and bushland reserves.

The Community Strategic Plan – Our Ku-ring-gai 2038 includes long term objectives relating to cultural heritage landscape preservation, and preserving the unique visual character of the Ku-ring-gai LGA.

A Local Character Study needs to be prepared that identifies areas of special landscape character relating to views, visual quality, urban forest (including bushland, tree canopy, street trees, gardens) and topography. In addition, the development of a Local Character Study is required to identify the important visual and landscape character elements of the LGA that need to be protected and enhanced including landmark locations, gateway entries, important views, movement corridors, centres, heritage conservation areas and heritage items and natural vegetation. The Local Character Study will also consider the desired future character of some areas, such as the Local Centres and how these may change over time, including identification of characteristics to be retained or enhanced.

The NSW Government's Local Character and Place Guideline (February 2019) provides a framework to clarify the key influences of local character and place, how local character can be integrated into the planning system and current approaches for the inclusion of local character in local planning.

The guidelines provide three possible approaches on how a council could integrate local character into local land use planning. Given the importance of the unique visual character of Ku-ring-gai to the community and the role it plays to the sense of place, the Local Environmental Plan overlay and local character statement approach (Approach 2) is the appropriate strategic direction. This involves:

- translating, in the LSPS, the strategic direction and broad character influences;
- preparing a standalone local character statement including character assessment and desired future character;
- reviewing the local character overlay in the Local Environmental Plan, and Local Environmental Plan, to ensure zones, objectives and standards align to the local character statement;
- updating the Development Control Plan to ensure controls achieve desired future character.

Figure 2-21 Local Character and Heritage identifies some elements within Ku-ring-gai which contribute to the local character, scenic and cultural landscape value of the area including tree canopy, heritage conservation areas, ridgelines and national parks, bushland, nature reserves and other public open space.

## INTERFACE AREAS

The Ku-ring-gai LGA has a significant diversity of intact and valued land form, ecology, cultivated and natural landscapes, and historical and contemporary urban-scapes. The Interface areas are those tracts of land that are located in between these diverse lands and serve to transition between the differing scale, land use, landscape and character; or, that sit adjacent to localities with significant environmental or heritage value and require special consideration.

## PRINCIPLES FOR INTERFACE AREAS

- Development on interface areas are to:
  - provide a buffer or transitional development between differing scales of building, or differing land use types, or identified character areas;
  - retain an appropriate setting and visual curtilage to heritage items and heritage conservation areas, and the conservation of scenic and cultural landscapes; and
  - provide a responsive transition between natural areas and urban areas, where ecological values are protected.

## Local Character - Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority and Actions

<b>Ku-ring-gai Council</b>	<p><b>Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority</b></p> <p><b>K12. Managing change and growth in a way that conserves and enhances Ku-ring-gai's unique visual and landscape character</b></p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define Ku-ring-gai's unique visual and landscape character through community engagement (short term).</li> <li>• Undertake a Local Character Study in accordance with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Local Character and Place Guidelines February 2019. The study will include investigation of areas of special landscape, views and vistas, visual quality, topography and the Urban Forest (including bushland, tree canopy, street trees, gardens). It will also consider Green Grid links and biodiversity corridors (short term).</li> <li>• Implement recommendations from the Local Character Study (short-medium term).</li> <li>• Prepare Local Character Mapping for LEP Overlay and Local Character Statements for DCP in collaboration with Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (short-medium term).</li> </ul>
<b>North District Plan</b>	<p><b>Planning Priority N6</b></p> <p>Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage.</p> <p><b>Planning Priority N17</b></p> <p>Protecting and enhancing scenic and cultural landscapes</p>
<b>Greater Sydney Region Plan</b>	<p><b>Objective 12</b></p> <p>Great places that bring people together</p> <p><b>Objective 28</b></p> <p>Scenic and cultural landscapes are protected</p>



Mangrove Walk at Bobbin Head by Kay Watson

## HERITAGE

### Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority

#### K13. Identifying and conserving Ku-ring-gai's environmental heritage

## BACKGROUND

Ku-ring-gai has a rich and long history; however, this section discusses only post contact history and the associated heritage places. Please also see Aboriginal Communities and Cultural Heritage.

In Ku-ring-gai there are over 950 heritage items, 24 of these are recognised on the NSW State Heritage Register, and there are over 50 heritage conservation areas, covering some 627 hectares or 7% of Ku-ring-gai. The heritage of Ku-ring-gai comprises a rare blend of fine domestic architecture within a landscape of indigenous forests and established gardens. Ku-ring-gai's places of environmental heritage significance include<sup>11</sup> :

- **Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century architecture**

The built heritage of Ku-ring-gai is expressed in the outstanding quantity, quality, depth and range of its late 19th and 20th century architecture. It contains houses designed by many of Australia's prominent architects of this time who have influenced the mainstream of Australian domestic architecture nationally; including John Sulman, Howard Joseland, Hardy Wilson, Leslie Wilkinson and Harry Seidler.

- **Heritage Conservation Areas**

Ku-ring-gai's heritage conservation areas are evidence of twentieth century town planning and conservation philosophies being: the separation of residential areas from other urban uses; subdivision patterns reflecting a range of suburban aspirations; the use of residential district proclamations to create and retain domestic environmental amenity; street tree planting; and post-war neighbourhood planning. Figure 2-21 Local Character and Heritage identifies the existing Heritage Conservation Areas.

- **Transport infrastructure**

The North Shore railway line is represented by the heritage listed railway stations in Ku-ring-gai whose presence demonstrates the bargaining power of public works and services in gaining votes for Federation, and whose construction acted as a catalyst for Federation and Inter-war residential subdivisions.

- **National parks and remnant forests**

The natural heritage values of Ku-ring-gai are evident in the surrounding national parks, the many nature reserves, adjacent waterways and in Ku-ring-gai's public and private gardens, where remnants of the original Blackbutt and Blue Gum Forests and the associated woodlands, understorey and dependent fauna are conserved.

- **Places significant for their cultural associations**

Ku-ring-gai's coherent aesthetic values resulting from a combination of elevated locations, good soil, large trees, extended views, fine architecture and established gardens inspired artists such as Grace Cossington Smith and Lionel Lindsay, visionaries such as John Sulman and J.J.C. Bradfield and writers such as Ethel Turner who honoured Ku-ring-gai with their works.

- **Places of technical and design significance**

Technical significance and design innovation are expressed in many of Ku-ring-gai's heritage listed buildings and gardens, demonstrating some of the earliest examples of work from students of Australia's first school of architecture at Sydney University, some of the earliest use of cavity walls and Marseilles tiles in NSW, the inventive design, materials use and methods of construction of post-war modernist houses, and innovative landscape designs of renowned exponents such as Edna Walling, Paul Sorensen and Jocelyn Brown.

- **Evidence of the stages of post contact development**

Ku-ring-gai has several distinct periods of development that is evidenced through numerous archaeological sites, heritage items and heritage conservation areas. The layers of development are from the very early timbergetting c.1820, the long period of relative isolation from built suburbia, the orcharding and farming, followed by the rapid growth of suburban development in response to the elevated topography, 'clean air' and the establishment of the railways in 1890.

<sup>11</sup> Adapted from the Statement of Significance for Ku-ring-gai Council contained within the Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study (1987)

- **Gardens and landscapes**

Numerous heritage gardens and historic landscapes evidence a variety of garden designs and horticultural styles that are in harmony with the natural landscape such as those at Swain Gardens, Bobbin Head, large private estates and the gardens at railway stations and well-designed gardens of cultivated botanical specimens such as Eryldene and the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden.

The major heritage studies that have influenced heritage planning in Ku-ring-gai are:

- **Ku-ring-gai Heritage Study (1987)**

Prepared by Robert Moore, Penelope Pike, Helen Proudfoot, and Lester Tropman and Associates the study included a historical analysis of the thematic development of Ku-ring-gai, and a field study of the entire LGA to locate and record known and predicted sites, and to identify and assess other places of potential heritage significance. Approximately 650 properties were added as heritage properties as an outcome of this study.

- **Ku-ring-gai Urban Conservation Area Studies (2000-2005)**

Godden Mackay Logan were commissioned by Council to review the Urban Conservation Areas identified in the National Trust publication 'Housing in NSW between the Wars'.

- **Ku-ring-gai Town Centres Heritage Review (2006)**

Ku-ring-gai Council commissioned City Plan Heritage to undertake a review of heritage items within the Gordon, Lindfield, Pymble and Roseville town centres. The report includes a list of the items reviewed and recommendations.

- **Ku-ring-gai Town Centres Heritage Conservation Area Review (2008)**

Paul Davies Pty Ltd reviewed potential heritage conservation areas within the draft Local Centres LEP. The HCAs were drawn from the Godden Mackay Logan's Heritage and Neighbourhood Character Study (2000) and others.

- **Northern and Southern Heritage Conservation Area Reviews (2010)**

In separate studies Paul Davies Pty Ltd and Architectural Projects reviewed HCAs across the Ku-ring-gai local government area. The HCAs were drawn from the National Trust study Housing in NSW between the Wars (1996) prepared by Robertson and Hindmarsh and the Godden Mackay Logan Urban Conservation Areas Studies (2000-2005).

While Ku-ring-gai's heritage extends across the LGA and is representative of the area's historic themes, the pattern of early development along the main ridgeline and the North Shore railway line has led to much of Ku-ring-gai's heritage being concentrated in the Primary Local Centres of Lindfield, Gordon and Turramurra, and the Secondary Local Centres of Roseville, Killara, Pymble and Wahroonga. These centres meet the fundamental criteria of the Greater Sydney Region Plan and the North District Plan as suitable locations for additional housing.

The objective of heritage conservation and the potential future increased residential density in these centres may lead to issues of conflict. Planning Priority N6 in the North District Plan is "creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage". The Plan highlights that heritage reinforces an area's sense of place and identity. New development in the centres will ideally respond to and respect the cultural values of Ku-ring-gai's local heritage through sympathetic design, retention of appropriate settings, such as the established gardens and tall canopy trees, and appropriately scaled interface.

In 2013, Council received delegation from the NSW State Government to make Interim Heritage Orders (IHOs) for items in Ku-ring-gai in accordance with section 25 of the Heritage Act 1977. Since this time, Council has made nine interim heritage orders; five resulted in permanent heritage listings. Interim Heritage Orders are intended as an action of last resort to protect places with potential heritage value that are under threat of destruction or despoilment. There is concern amongst the community that the IHO process reduces the confidence of potential property purchasers and developers. Undertaking a comprehensive heritage review would ideally reduce uncertainty around potential heritage significance and reduce the need for Council to use its IHO delegation.

In February 2019, an amendment was made so that State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) 2004 does not apply to Heritage Conservation Areas within Greater Sydney until 1 July 2020. This temporary change allows Councils to ensure seniors housing provisions align with their local strategic plans.

## STRATEGIC RESPONSE

A Heritage Strategy needs to be prepared that identifies the opportunities and challenges for managing Ku-ring-gai's heritage. The Heritage Strategy will set out the key objectives, priorities and actions required to manage Ku-ring-gai's heritage both now and into the future.

A strategic approach to heritage listing is required that defines key historic themes, including and beyond those identified in the 1987 study, and identifies and assesses potential heritage items, particularly those places built post-war or places whose significance arises from association with historical figures significant to Ku-ring-gai. A community based thematic heritage study will facilitate meaningful community input into identifying, assessing and conserving Ku-ring-gai's heritage places.

Seniors housing developments provided under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) 2004 result in poor built form and landscape outcomes that are not consistent with the heritage character and values of the Heritage Conservation Areas within Ku-ring-gai. Council will seek to ensure a permanent exemption of Heritage Conservation Areas within Ku-ring-gai from the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) 2004.



## Heritage - Ku-ring-gai Planning Priority and Actions

Ku-ring-gai Council	Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority
	<b>K13. Identifying and conserving Ku-ring-gai's environmental heritage</b>
	<b>Actions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a Heritage Strategy (2020-2025) that outlines Ku-ring-gai Council's objectives and actions for the management of heritage in Ku-ring-gai (short term).</li> <li>• Complete a community based thematic heritage study for the Ku-ring-gai local government area and incorporate any new listings in a future LEP (short term).</li> <li>• Liaise with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to seek a permanent exemption of Heritage Conservation Areas within Ku-ring-gai from the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors and People with a Disability) 2004 (short term).</li> </ul>
North District Plan	<b>Planning Priority N6</b> Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage
Greater Sydney Region Plan	<b>Objective 13</b> Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced

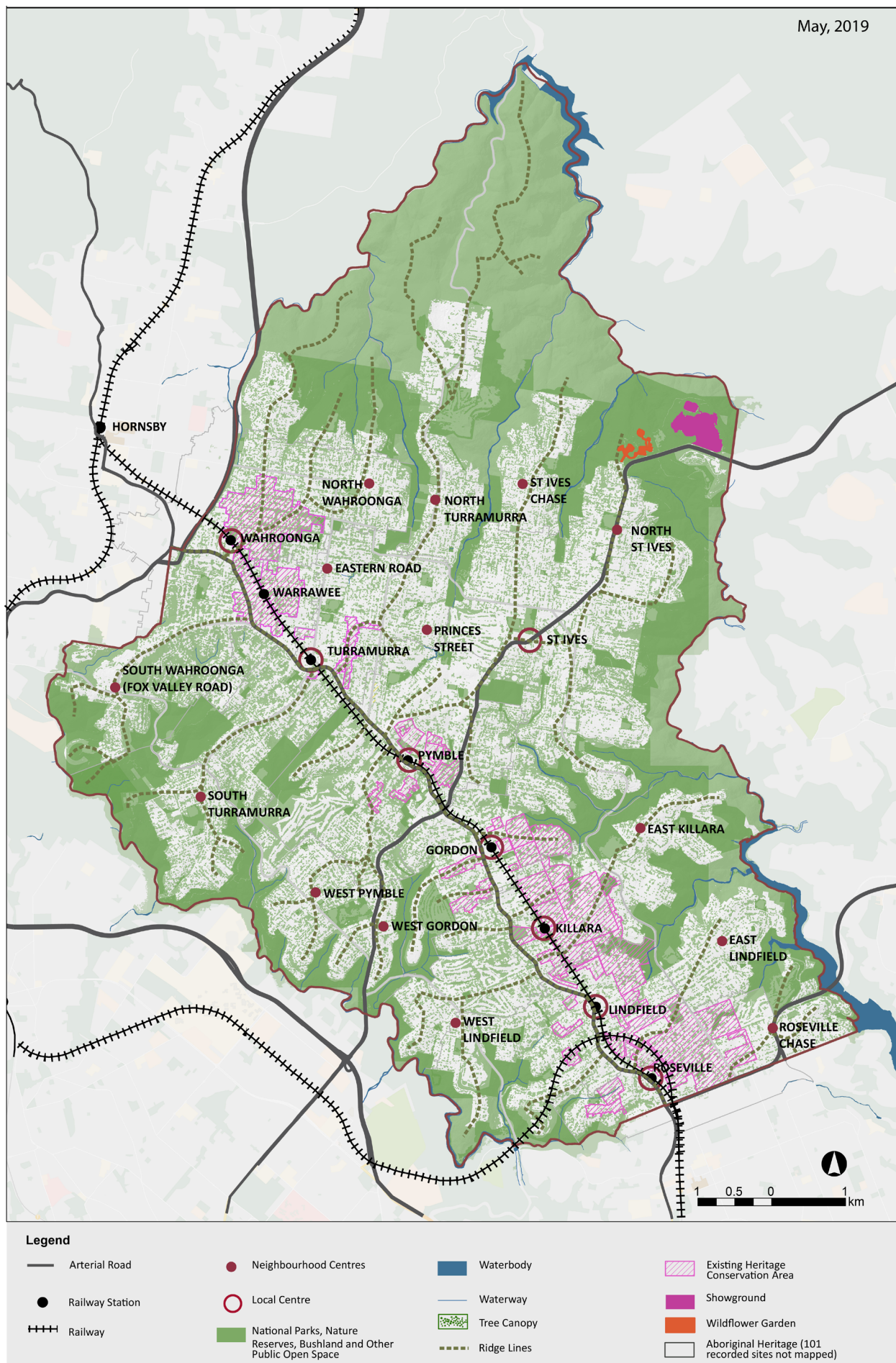


Figure 2-21 Local Character and Heritage

## Community and Cultural Infrastructure

### Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority

**K14. Providing a range of cultural, community and leisure facilities to foster a healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected Ku-ring-gai**

### BACKGROUND

Ku-ring-gai Council owns 48 buildings that are used to provide a wide range of community services and facilities for residents including:

- libraries;
- halls and meeting rooms;
- health and support services;
- aged and disabled services;
- mental health, counselling and crisis services;
- children's services including childcare, kindergarten and preschool facilities;
- youth centres;
- arts and cultural services and facilities.

The total floor space available is approximately 15,000sqm and the breakdown in terms of building use is:

- 17 community centres and halls;
- 4 libraries;
- 20 buildings leased to organisations providing community services;
- 1 drama theatre;
- 6 buildings leased to child care/preschool operators.

Council has undertaken extensive planning for the provision of new community facilities. Previous studies include:

- Ku-ring-gai Council Library Facilities Study, 2004;
- Cultural Plan 2004-2009;
- Ku-ring-gai Community Facilities Strategy, 2009;
- Lindfield Community Facilities Study, 2014;
- Turramurra Community Facilities Study, 2015;
- Cultural Needs Analysis, 2015;
- Gordon Civic Hub Feasibility Study, 2017;

- Ku-ring-gai Destination Management Plan 2017 to 2020;
- Ku-ring-gai Community Facilities Strategy – Part 1 – Community Centres and Libraries, 2018;
- Ku-ring-gai Community Facilities Strategy – Part 2 – Creative Arts Facilities (under preparation).

The findings of these studies have been incorporated into Council's strategic planning documents and since 2010, Council has been actively collecting development contributions to partially fund the design and construction of new facilities.

It is noted that Council's Cultural Plan is now 10 years out of date and is in need of revision and updating.

Key findings from past studies are summarised below:

- There are significant inadequacies in the current provision of library facilities in the LGA, impacting on Council's ability to provide modern high quality library services. Branch libraries regularly experience overcrowding and are out-dated in terms of finishes, fitout and furniture.
- Council's community buildings are on the whole inadequate to meet the needs of the existing population and will be unable to absorb growing numbers of users, or respond to changing interests and needs.
- The majority of facilities have small spaces that are not flexible and limited in their capability to accommodate many uses, with many facilities accommodating a single or limited number of users.
- The majority of existing facilities in Ku-ring-gai are old, out-dated and no longer fit for purpose.
- The condition of some facilities is extremely poor, and a number of facilities have been closed due to safety issues related to their poor condition.
- Existing facilities are well-used and at, or close to, capacity, despite their poor condition.

- There is a high and growing demand for space for larger meetings and group activities, functions, events and performances.
- The northern parts of Ku-ring-gai have less community facilities than the southern parts – this means that some residents have better access than others. The eastern sector/St Ives area has a lack of community facility space for community use for meetings, classes, activities (such as dance, fitness and playgroup) and community hire for private functions.
- There are few dedicated spaces that can be used for large visual and creative arts groups within the LGA. The Ku-ring-gai Art Centre is at capacity and has limited or no opportunity for future growth.
- Council does not have a built-for-purpose gallery space. The Ku-ring-gai Art Centre has a small exhibition space; however, artists are frequently required to use other private spaces to meet their needs.
- Council does not have a heritage resource centre that would provide advice and support to foster an appreciation of heritage and its stewardship. Such a centre would service heritage property owners, local residents, students, heritage consultants, historical researchers, and visitors to the area.
- Many practicing artists utilise studio space outside of the LGA due to a lack of available space locally.
- There are no publicly accessible film making or multimedia facilities available in the LGA.
- Council currently does not provide sound recording studios for local musicians.
- The provision of low cost studio spaces can also promote and support artist-in-residence programs.
- There is a need for an integrated and strategic planning framework in relation to the location and management of Council's cultural venues.
- Ku-ring-gai's population is increasingly culturally diverse. In 2016, about 39% of the population was born overseas, including just over 25% from non-English speaking countries. About 28% of Ku-ring-gai's residents speak a language other than English at home, with the most common languages being Cantonese, Mandarin and Korean.



## STRATEGIC RESPONSE

In 2018 Council prepared and adopted a strategy to guide the planning and design of community centres and libraries across Ku-ring-gai over the next 20-30 years. The Strategy proposes the development of a network of facilities that work together to collectively meet the needs of the Ku-ring-gai population and this network be implemented through a hierarchy of facilities including sub-regional, district, and neighbourhood level facilities. In Gordon, the plan is to build a new sub-regional civic hub with a cultural component, new council chambers and administrative offices, alongside the Gordon Library. This facility will be large enough to service the whole of Ku-ring-gai. Nearby, Marian Street Theatre in Killara will be renovated and re-opened as a fully functioning drama theatre.

New community hubs are proposed in the Local Centre areas of Lindfield, St Ives and Turramurra. A community hub is where community facilities are grouped together in one building close to the shops, public transport and parks to

make it easier for people to visit. The plan envisages a new hub building in each centre with a library and community centre combined. Master plans have been prepared and adopted for the Lindfield Village Hub and the Turramurra Community Hub which integrate community buildings, open space, retail uses and residential apartments.

The Strategy also proposes a network of smaller neighbourhood community centres; most of these are existing buildings which, over time will be upgraded and include West Pymble, West Lindfield, Roseville Chase, East Lindfield and St Ives Chase. Two new neighbourhood community centres are proposed in the northern part of Ku-ring-gai to address the shortage in this part of the LGA.

Some of Council's existing buildings are proposed to be closed as they will be replaced by the new buildings. An example is the Lindfield Library and adjoining community halls; once the new hub facility is built and operational these facilities will be closed. Figure 2-23 Community and

PROPOSED COMMUNITY FACILITIES NETWORK		
Catchment	Facility	Floor space (m <sup>2</sup> )
Northern (Wahroonga, Pymble and Turramurra)	West Pymble Community Centre (retained)	250
	New Community centre (location tbc)	750
	New Community Centre (location tbc)	750
	New Library and Community Centre (Turramurra Community Hub)	3,400
subtotal		5,150
Eastern (St Ives)	Caley's Pavilion (retained)	194
	St Ives Community Centre (retained and upgraded)	570
	Family Day Care Resource Centre	117
	New Library and Community Centre (St Ives Community Hub)	1,500
subtotal		2,381
Southern (Lindfield, Killara and Roseville)	West Lindfield Community Centre (retained)	456
	East Roseville Community Centre (retained)	327
	East Lindfield Community Centre (retained)	391
	Blair Wark Community Centre (retained)	156
	New Library and Community Centre (Lindfield Community Hub)	2,400
subtotal		3,730
Sub-regional	Marian Street Theatre (retained and upgraded)	1,757
	Library and New Cultural Centre (Gordon Civic and Cultural Hub)	5,200
subtotal		6,957
Ku-ring-gai local government area total		18,218

Figure 2-22 Proposed Community Facilities Network

Cultural Infrastructure outlines the network of facilities, where new facilities are proposed, and where existing facilities are proposed to be closed and incorporated in the new community hub projects.

Figure 2-22 includes a summary of the proposed facilities, both new and retained, for each catchment area within the LGA. Overall, the LGA will provide 91% of the recommended 2036m<sup>2</sup> provision of library and community centre floor space (recommended 2036 provision based on best practice benchmarks and State Library NSW Standards). Council owned facilities that are leased to community organisations and accommodate community services are in addition to this overall provision rate. For the proposed new and upgraded community facilities such as libraries and community centres, Council will continue to ensure their design caters for the diverse community needs (including young people, older people, people with a disability or people from culturally and linguistically diverse background) to encourage inclusivity and optimum usage.

The Strategy also acknowledges the developing entertainment precinct at the St Ives Showground. In 2017, Council prepared the Ku-ring-gai Destination Management Plan 2017-2020 to provide strategic direction for Council to plan for the sustainable management, development and marketing of tourism in Ku-ring-gai over the next four years to 2020. Ku-ring-gai does not currently have a recognised tourism profile in the Sydney region; the area has major nature-based and heritage assets that are under-utilised and undercapitalised, and not achieving their value to local residents and the economy. One of the key strategic priorities identified in the study is to continue to develop and re-position the St Ives Showground Precinct as a contemporary and distinctive tourism destination in Sydney, building on the already successful 'Medieval Faire' which attracts national and international visitors.

A revised precinct master plan is required that shows how festivals and events, tourism product and experiences, accommodation, and infrastructure can be balanced with the existing activities. Future master planning for the site should also ensure that new tourism initiatives for the site integrate with current community, recreational and sporting activities to develop an integrated multi-purpose destination.

Work is currently underway on a Creative Arts Facilities Strategy with a focus on buildings that are operated by Council and cater specifically for the creative arts which includes visual (photography, painting sculpture, printmaking

etc.); performance (drama, music etc.); and the electronic arts (audio, visual, film etc.). Council currently maintains and operates three facilities specifically for the creative, visual and performing arts, and the strategy will consider the potential role for a new cultural hub in Gordon to supplement and support the existing facilities.

The Strategy will further refine and understand the cultural and creative character of the LGA and the community's need for creative arts facilities across the LGA. The outcome will be a spatial framework setting out the proposed location of facilities across the LGA that will promote, encourage and nurture the creative, visual and performing arts into the future.

Future studies will need to develop additional strategies for:

- Council owned buildings that are currently leased to community organisations on an exclusive basis. Many of the existing buildings are ageing with high maintenance or replacement costs, and a number have been closed due to safety issues. Such a strategy would develop a financially sustainable model that would ensure identified social needs continue to be served. This strategy would likely propose some rationalisation of existing facilities including where possible incorporation into new facilities within the new community hubs.
- The management of the network of facilities including an approach to facility programing that ensures a range of services, activities and programs to meet a broad range of community needs. The administration and staffing arrangements for community hubs will also need to be considered as these will be managed as integrated facilities rather than as traditional separated libraries and community centres. The operational model may also involve the management of local and neighbourhood facilities as satellite facilities to their closest district or sub-regional community hub.
- A revised and updated Cultural Plan that will guide Council's engagement with cultural facilities and activities across the LGA, with particular reference to the areas of cultural diversity and Aboriginal heritage (K15 & K16).

## Community and Cultural Infrastructure - Ku-ring-gai Planning Priority and Actions

Ku-ring-gai Council	Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority
	K14. Providing a range of cultural, community and leisure facilities to foster a healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected Ku-ring-gai
	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Council's adopted Community Facilities Strategy (ongoing).</li> <li>• Complete the Creative Arts Facilities Strategy and commence implementation (short term).</li> <li>• Continue to implement and develop community hub projects at Turramurra, Lindfield, Gordon and St Ives as the basis for funding capital expenditure and operating expenditure of new facilities (ongoing).</li> <li>• Progress the renewal and opening of Marian Street Theatre, Killara (short-medium term).</li> <li>• Prepare a master plan for the Gordon Civic and Cultural Hub (short - medium term).</li> <li>• Prepare a revised master plan for the St Ives Showground Precinct as a regional tourism and events destination (medium term).</li> <li>• Undertake a review of Council owned buildings that are currently leased to community organisations on an exclusive basis and develop a strategy for the management of these buildings (ongoing).</li> <li>• Develop a management/operational model for the proposed network of community and cultural facilities (medium term).</li> <li>• Prepare a Cultural Plan for the LGA (short - medium term).</li> </ul>
North District Plan	<p><b>Planning Priority N3</b></p> <p>Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs</p> <p><b>Planning Priority N4</b></p> <p>Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities</p>
Greater Sydney Region Plan	<p><b>Objective 6</b></p> <p>Services and infrastructure meet communities changing needs</p> <p><b>Objective 7</b></p> <p>Communities are healthy, resilient and socially connected</p> <p><b>Objective 9</b></p> <p>Greater Sydney celebrates the arts and supports creative industries and innovation</p>

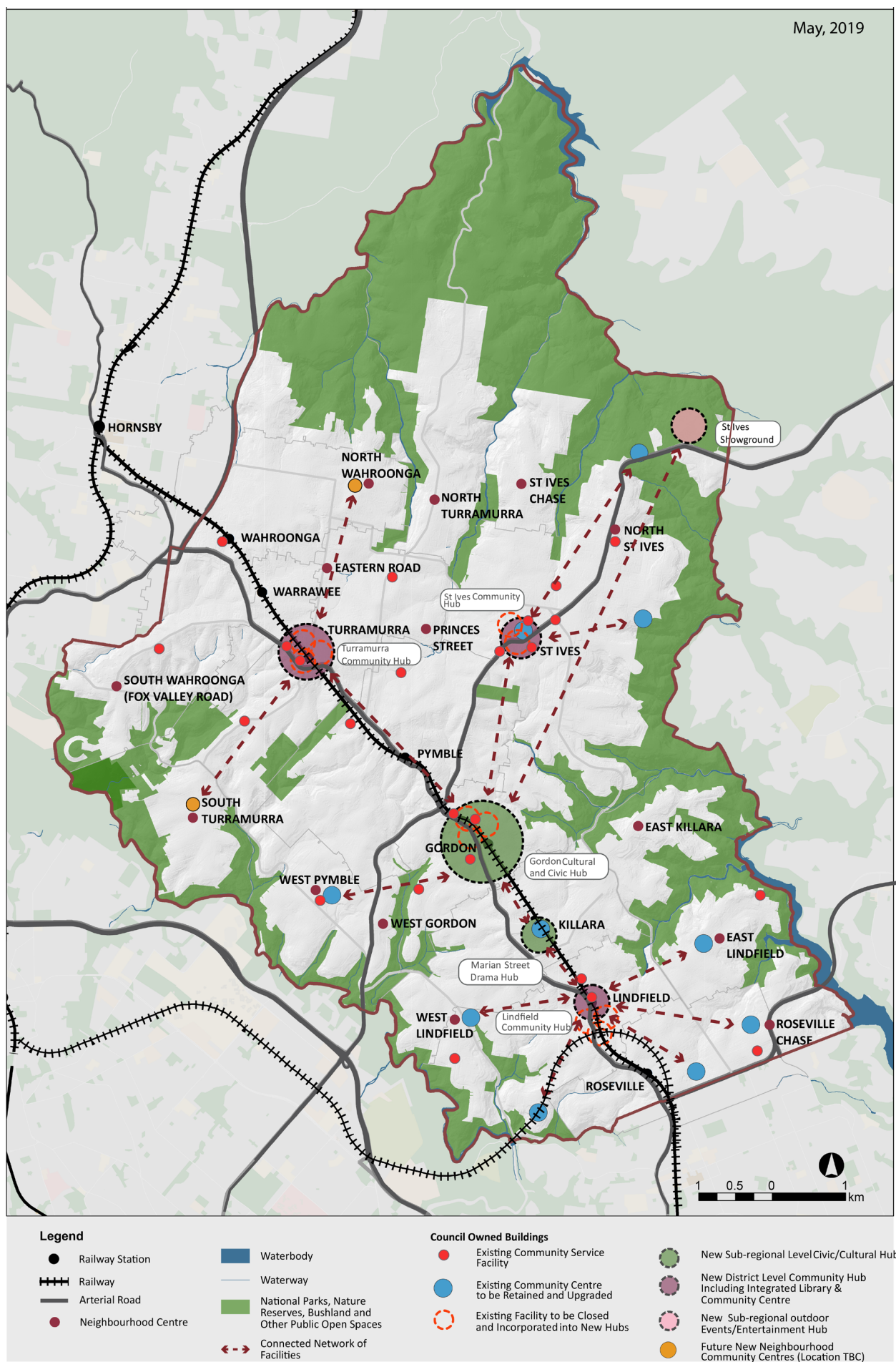


Figure 2-23 Community and Cultural Infrastructure

## Aboriginal Communities and Cultural Heritage

### Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priorities

#### K15. Strengthening recognition and support for Aboriginal communities and cultural heritage

#### K16. Protecting, conserving and managing Ku-ring-gai's Aboriginal heritage objects, items and significant places

### BACKGROUND

The Council of Ku-ring-gai acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of our land, Australia and this place we now call Ku-ring-gai.

The Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area (LGA) is estimated to have contained as many as 650 sites of Aboriginal heritage. With approximately 75 percent of the land within the LGA already developed, it is likely that a large number of Aboriginal sites have been destroyed. While 101 sites remain as recorded Aboriginal sites in the LGA, at least double that number is believed to remain. The majority of the remaining sites are located in bushland reserves; whilst others are within private land.

The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC), established under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983, is the legislated authority for representation of all Aboriginal people and the body responsible for protection and preservation of local Aboriginal culture and heritage of the Sydney Metropolitan area. The MLALC owns 32ha of land within Ku-ring-gai. Council will continue to engage with the MLALC as both a land holder and a representational body for the Aboriginal people.

The following goals and strategies in the MLALC – Strengthening the Aboriginal Nations 2016-2021 Community Land and Business Plan will guide Council's approach to working on land use planning matters with the MLALC relating to the following areas:

- Aboriginal healing and wellbeing;
- Culture and heritage;
- Tourism and international education;
- Employment and education;
- Sustainability.

Since 2006, Ku-ring-gai has also been a member of the Aboriginal Heritage Office (AHO), a joint initiative of member Councils (including Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Willoughby, Strathfield and The Northern Beaches Council).

The AHO's projects and activities are based on three main areas; education, council support and site management.

Council through works undertaken by the AHO continue to protect, record, monitor and restore (in collaboration with the Office of Environment and Heritage) Aboriginal sites within the LGA. Council also seeks to engage and empower the local community to respect and protect these sites through the AHO community volunteer site monitor program (this was a pilot study in North Sydney in 1997 and is still in operation today).

Protection of Aboriginal heritage is integrated within Council's policies, strategies, plans of management, site management plans and procedures. This includes assessments under the Environmental Protection and Assessment Act 1979, internal training and support of staff and care program volunteers (eg. Bushcare, Streetcare and Parkcare).

The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act) and Regulations, administered by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), is the primary legislation for the protection of aspects of Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales.

Under Council's Local Environmental Plan, Section 5.10 sets out the objectives and planning provisions to protect and conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.

Due to privacy and cultural sensitivity concerns Aboriginal places of heritage significance are not included on public maps. Whilst an appropriate level of Aboriginal heritage assessment is conducted by Council staff for all development applications and relevant Council works, complying development certificates are often approved by private certifiers external to Council and may not currently require specific consideration of Aboriginal Heritage. This is presenting issues for the effective management and protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Ku-ring-gai LGA.



## STRATEGIC RESPONSE

Ku-ring-gai Council recognises that, by acknowledging our shared past, we are creating a framework for a future based on shared responsibility for our land, which encompasses all Australians. In doing so Council will:

- Continue to build upon the mapping of Aboriginal objects, sites and Aboriginal Place of Heritage Significance.
- Investigate the creation of an Aboriginal Place of Heritage Significance Overlay within the LEP (whilst balancing the need for privacy to protect Aboriginal objects and sites).
- Work with State Government to address the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage within the Complying Development process.
- Actively seek opportunities for recognition and promotion of Aboriginal heritage, through the enhancement of sustainable nature-based and built form tourism in the local area (informed by the Ku-ring-gai Destination Management Plan, 2017-2020). This will include future improvements and management of the St Ives Showground Precinct as set out by the relevant plan of management and the master plan time frames.
- Seek to embrace opportunities to work with, and support, the Aboriginal community on contemporary cultural awareness and expression through initiatives such as culturally appropriate social infrastructure, protection of objects, sites and significant places through engaging with the MLALC and AHO in the implementation of the LSPS and other collaborative opportunities as identified. This includes consideration of the economic and social needs of MLALC as they relate to land use planning as articulated within the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Strengthening the Aboriginal Nations 2016 – 2021 Community Land and Business Plan.
- Prepare a Cultural Plan to recognise the importance of the areas of Aboriginal heritage and to provide a framework for engagement with the Aboriginal Community.

## Aboriginal Communities and Cultural Heritage - Ku-ring-gai Planning Priorities and Actions

<b>Ku-ring-gai Council</b>	<p><b>Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority</b></p> <p><b>K15. Strengthening recognition and support for Aboriginal communities and cultural heritage</b></p> <p><b>K16. Protecting, conserving and managing Ku-ring-gai's Aboriginal heritage objects, items and significant places</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the opportunity with the MLALC for the development of an appropriate Reconciliation Action Plan (short-medium term).</li> <li>• Continue to engage with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Lands Council to better understand and support their economic aspirations as they relate to land use planning (ongoing).</li> <li>• Participate in the regional Aboriginal Heritage Office initiatives (ongoing).</li> <li>• Deliver Aboriginal cultural activities at the St Ives Precinct (short-medium term).</li> <li>• Implement the Ku-ring-gai Destination Management Plan 2017-2020, incorporating visitation based on Aboriginal heritage (ongoing).</li> <li>• Local Aboriginal culture and history is recognised and protected through Council's policies, plans and strategies (ongoing).</li> <li>• Prepare in consultation with the Aboriginal organisations and relevant state agencies Aboriginal heritage controls and provisions into Council's development control plan and aligned policies. Further work is required to address protection of sites from complying development (short term).</li> <li>• Prepare a Cultural Plan for the LGA (short - medium term).</li> </ul>
<b>North District Plan</b>	<p><b>Planning Priority N4</b></p> <p>Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities</p> <p><b>Planning Priority N17</b></p> <p>Protecting and enhancing scenic and cultural landscapes</p>
<b>Greater Sydney Region Plan</b>	<p><b>Objective 8</b></p> <p>Greater Sydney's communities are culturally rich with diverse neighbourhoods</p> <p><b>Objective 13</b></p> <p>Environmental heritage is identified, conserved and enhanced</p> <p><b>Objective 28</b></p> <p>Scenic and cultural landscapes are protected</p>

## Open Space, Recreation and Sport

### Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priorities

**K17. Providing a broad range of open space, sporting and leisure facilities to meet the community's diverse and changing needs**

**K18. Ensuring recreational activities in natural areas are conducted within ecological limits and in harmony with no net impact on endangered ecological communities and endangered species or their habitats**

**K19. Providing well maintained, connected, accessible and highly valued trail networks and recreational infrastructure where locals and visitors can enjoy and connect with nature**

**K20. Developing and managing a network of sporting assets that best meet the needs of a growing and changing community**

### BACKGROUND

The Ku-ring-gai local government area has approximately 300 hectares of developed open space containing a wide spectrum of sport and recreation facilities including sportsgrounds at 45 locations, a fitness and aquatic centre, two public golf courses, 4 private golf courses, 30 sealed netball courts, 69 tennis courts, five bowling clubs, one croquet green, and over 3km of bitumen recreational cycle ways. Figure 2-24 Open Space, Recreation and Sport outlines some of these key sporting and recreation facilities within Ku-ring-gai.

Alongside the areas of developed open space, Ku-ring-gai has approximately 1,100 hectares of natural areas or bushland including 15 iconic walking tracks and many other tracks and trails offering a multitude of recreational opportunities. Some of the activities conducted on bushland tracks and trails and within natural areas in Ku-ring-gai include walking, running and jogging; rock climbing, bouldering and abseiling; mountain biking; orienteering and rogaining.

The adjoining waterways also offer opportunities for a range of water sports including kayaking, fishing, swimming and boating. Whilst all boat ramps and marina areas occur either in private ownership or national parks, these areas nonetheless provide an important context and add significant value to the range of recreational experiences offered within the LGA.

Ku-ring-gai also has very high participation rates in passive recreation such as walking, running, dog walking, cycling and unstructured or informal sport within open space facilities such as parks. The pressure on Council's parks and sport and recreation facilities is high, and there are insufficient facilities to meet current and anticipated future demands. Further, as the age profile of the community changes, different preferences for recreation and leisure are emerging. An

example is the declining participation rates in the sports of golf and bowling. Across Ku-ring-gai two bowling clubs have closed in the last few years in Roseville Chase and Gordon; in addition one club in East Lindfield has been partly converted for FUTSAL. Membership of the Gordon Golf Club has declined significantly; while mountain biking and road cycling for recreation has seen significant increases in participation.

The natural areas of Ku-ring-gai are ecologically sensitive and vulnerable to over-exploitation. Biotic and abiotic factors, such as topography, erosional landscapes and prevalence of rare and threatened species and ecological communities means large areas are not suited to some recreational pursuits, and there is limited recreational infrastructure that can be provided to ensure sustainability within ecological constraints. To meet growing demands for recreation opportunities in bushland areas Council has recently commenced preparation of a Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy.

### STRATEGIC RESPONSE

The Ku-ring-gai Open Space Acquisition Strategy 2006, Recreation Needs Analysis Study, 2001, and Sport in Ku-ring-gai Strategy, 2006 have been the key documents informing the Council's open space and recreation needs and priorities over the last decade or more. To add to these studies, Council has recently commenced a Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy to meet growing demands for recreation opportunities in bushland areas.

Since 2006, Ku-ring-gai and the broader Sydney metropolitan area has undergone rapid change and it is now timely to assess these changes to inform decision making about future open space, sport and recreation facility provision and development. Moving forward, Council intends to plan for

open space, sport and recreation in an integrated manner. This will ensure balanced consideration of activity needs whether active, passive, structured or unstructured.

In the short term Council will prepare an Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study to better understand the changing needs of residents. As noted in this document there has been significant demographic change in the resident population and research is required to understand recreation needs, existing gaps in provision and future demand. The study will provide Council with an evidence base and strategic framework for effective recreation, open space, infrastructure, and financial planning for the future.

The Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study will integrate with Council's draft Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy currently under preparation; draft Playground Strategy currently under preparation; with Green Grid and open space acquisition planning; and with the NSROC Sportsground Strategy 2017.



Ku-ring-gai Fitness And Aquatic Centre, West Pymble

## Open Space, Recreation and Sport - Ku-ring-gai Planning Priorities and Actions

<p><b>Ku-ring-gai Council</b></p>	<p><b>Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Priority</b></p> <p><b>K17. Providing a broad range of open space, sporting and leisure facilities to meet the community's diverse and changing needs.</b></p> <p><b>K18. Ensuring recreational activities in natural areas are conducted within ecological limits and in harmony with no net impact on endangered ecological communities and endangered species or their habitats</b></p> <p><b>K19. Providing well maintained, connected, accessible and highly valued trail networks and recreational infrastructure where locals and visitors can enjoy and connect with nature</b></p> <p><b>K20. Developing and managing a network of sporting assets that best meet the needs of a growing and changing community</b></p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete and commence implementation of the Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy (short term).</li> <li>• Undertake an integrated Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Study (refer K27) (medium term).</li> <li>• Continue to implement a program of improvements to existing recreation, sporting and leisure facilities (ongoing).</li> <li>• Continue to work closely with sporting organisations and clubs, user groups and residents to develop and manage Council's sporting assets (ongoing).</li> <li>• Negotiate a Heads of Agreement with the Department of Education for the construction and joint usage of an indoor sports facility at St Ives High School (short term).</li> </ul>
<p><b>North District Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Priority N1</b></p> <p>Planning for a city supported by infrastructure</p> <p><b>Planning Priority N4</b></p> <p>Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities</p>
<p><b>Greater Sydney Region Plan</b></p>	<p><b>Objective 1</b></p> <p>Infrastructure supports the three cities</p> <p><b>Objective 8</b></p> <p>Greater Sydney's communities are culturally rich with diverse neighbourhoods</p>

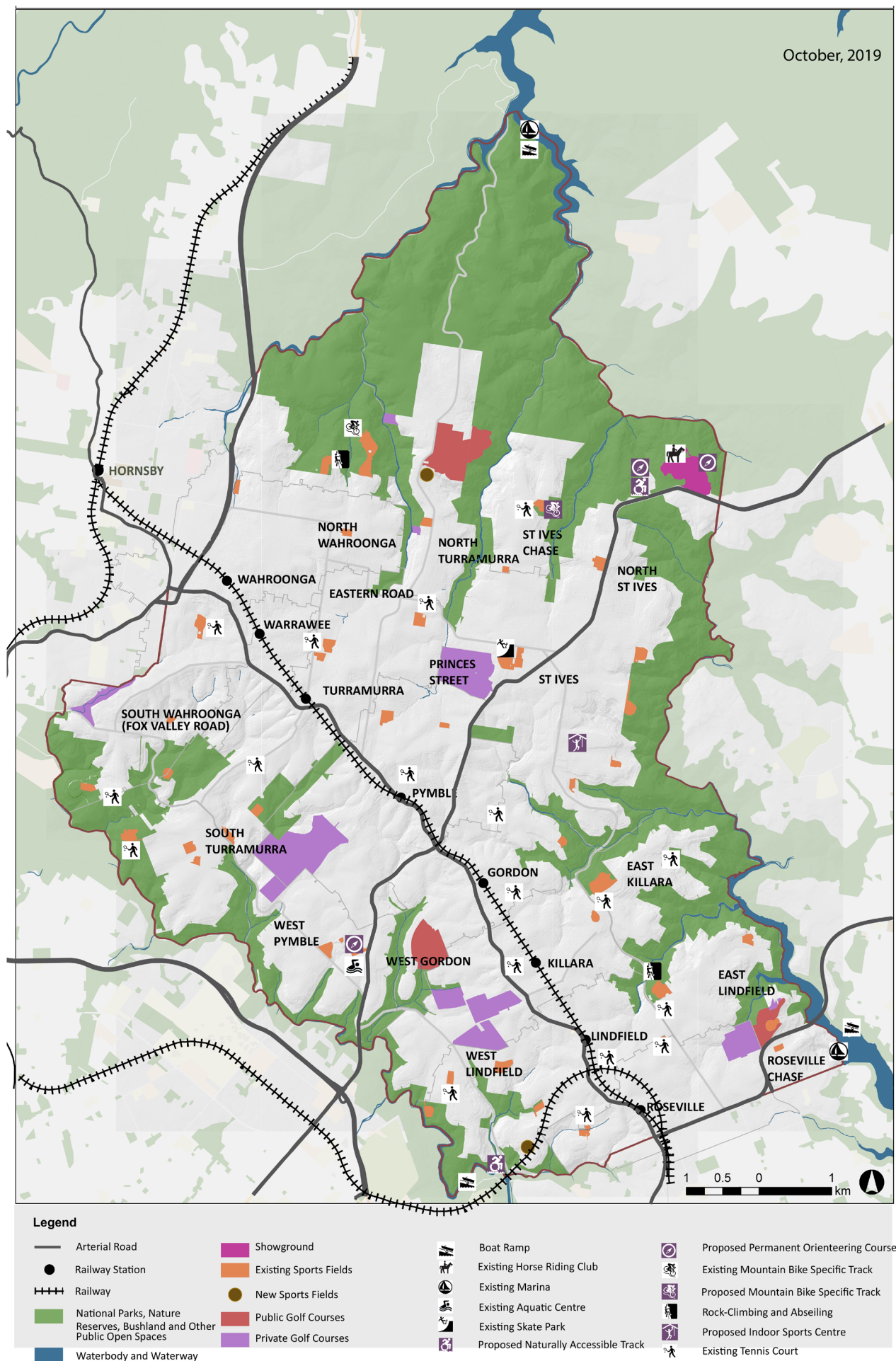


Figure 2-24 Open Space, Recreation and Sport