



**Horsham Rural City**  
Council urban rural balance



# **HORSHAM RURAL CITY COUNCIL**

## **OPEN SPACE STRATEGY – FINAL REPORT**

2019 – COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Disclaimer

SBP have prepared this study solely for Horsham Rural City Council. The work informing this study was undertaken between November 2018 and May 2019. It draws on primary field work and information collected from publicly available secondary sources during this time.

Other than our responsibility to the Horsham Rural City Council, neither SBP nor any member or employee of SBP undertakes responsibility arising in any way from reliance placed by a third party on this report. Any reliance placed is that party's sole responsibility.

In addition to the inherent limitations outlined above:

This report does not represent a detailed technical report, but instead provides an overview of the process, methodology and outcomes of the investigation into Open Space within Horsham.

The methodology used to audit and assess open space and play spaces within the municipality has relied on currently available data and research. Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this report may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect the absolute figures.

The synthesis, analysis and interpretation of this information are entirely the work of SBP and copyright is asserted in this respect. All reasonable endeavours have been made to ensure that the contents of this document are factually correct, however SBP and its employees, do not accept responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of or reliance on the contents herein.

## Recognition of our land's traditional owners

Horsham Rural City Council recognises the five Traditional Owner groups of this land: the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa , Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk Peoples.

The development of this strategy was overseen by the Horsham Rural City Council's Project Control Group. A number of Councillors and Council staff outside of the Project Control Group also had input into the strategy



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## **Purpose of the OSS**

It is important to note that HRCC is only one of several open space managers in the region, and does not have jurisdiction over land it doesn't manage.

This Open Space Strategy will provide Council with strategic directions to determine priorities for the planning, provision and development of open space that is owned or managed by Council across the municipality.

## **How the OSS was developed**

The following methodology was used to develop the Open Space Strategy:

- Project scoping and interviews with key stakeholders, HRCC staff and Councilors
- Desktop analysis including a document review, benchmarking HRCC open space provision against comparable local government areas and demographic analysis and forecasting
- Community and stakeholder consultation, including online surveys, interactive mapping feedback, depth interviews with key stakeholders, and community forums
- Strategic workshops with Council and the development of a draft Open Space Strategy

## **What is Open Space?**

For the purpose of this strategy, open space is defined as "All freely accessible land owned/managed by Horsham Rural City Council used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes."

This document also makes reference to other government agencies involved in open space management including Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). These agencies play a role in

delivering quality open space, and partnering with council where necessary.

There are number of Parks Victoria managed parks and reserves in the municipality including State Parks, a Heritage River and numerous conservation reserves. Whilst the primary purpose of reservation is the conservation of natural and cultural values, these parks and reserves provide important recreational opportunities both now and into the future. Some of these activities include bush walking, cycling, camping, fishing, duck hunting, rock climbing, boating and other water sports, and, nature study.

School grounds, University and TAFE grounds, streetscapes, and private open space play a complimentary role to the open space network. They are considered ancillary open space, and are not the main focus of this strategy. However, strategic partnerships to enhance community usage of school-based assets is explored further in the recommendations.

Information contained within this strategy is based on an audit and assessment of Horsham's open space network as at May 2019. Any open space developments or data updates since this time have not been taken into account.

It is proposed that the Horsham Open Space Strategy is monitored on a regular and ongoing basis, with a review/refresh every 4-5 years. Progress and reporting towards the specific actions in this document should be reviewed and reported internally on an annual basis.

## **Why is Open Space important?**

Open space plays an important role in our society by providing places for exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport. Parks, landscaped gardens, walking and cycling tracks, sports grounds and play spaces, provide spaces that are both aesthetically pleasing and good for physical and mental health.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Open space plays an important role in our society by providing places for exercise, quiet reflection, children's play and organised sport. As our communities grow and change, greater attention needs to be placed on planning our open spaces to ensure that they meet our current and future needs.

The Horsham Rural City Council has developed an integrated Open Space Strategy (OSS) to provide Council with strategic directions to determine priorities for the planning, provision and development of open space across the municipality.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Establish a vision for Council for the provision of open space
- Establish an agreed hierarchy and definition of open space and play spaces to be applied to the municipality
- Establish benchmarks for Horsham



The overarching vision for open space in Horsham is:

**“A leading regional community with an open space network that provides positive health and well-being outcomes for everybody.”**

## Key Trends and Issues

Some of the broader trends and issues that impact this strategy are:

- The ageing nature of Horsham's population. Between 2016 and 2031 the 65+ age bracket is expected to grow by 29% in Horsham.
- Horsham has a great year-round climate, however climate change is upon us and must continue to be addressed moving forward.
- Active recreation is growing at a rapid rate. It contributes more than sport towards Victorians achieving the national guidelines for physical activity each year.
- Traditional or organised sport is declining or stagnant (although women's sport continues to reach new heights).
- Changing lifestyles of regional residents, and many regional towns are undergoing change and transition.
- A focus on community spaces for all ages (multi-generational).
- The growth and desire for multi-purpose facilities for economies of scale and use.

## Open Space Audit and Assessment

The audit and assessment of open space in Horsham found that there is 287 hectares (ha) of open space across Horsham. This excludes 55 ha of open space fronting the river (along Menadue Street, Barnes Boulevard, Major Mitchell Drive and Burnt Creek), 15 ha of drainage and stormwater reserves, and 13 ha of public halls. This equates to approximately 14.6 ha of open space per 1,000 people.

Although this ratio may indicate that there is a relatively high amount of open space provided, the quality and access to a diverse range of open space across the municipality is poor. Key issues identified within the existing open space

network are outlined below:

- The quantity of open space in Horsham is considered "high or adequate" - however the quality of open space is poor on a number of fronts.
- Facilities and amenities around public open spaces are in decline or often non-existent.
- Accessibility to open space is inequitable across the municipality. Either physical barriers exist, or there is a perception that some open space is not open to the public.
- There are also some open spaces such as the Horsham Racecourse and the Horsham Showgrounds, where a large portion of the area is encumbered space and not able to be used by the broader community. Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility at the Horsham Showgrounds would be determined as a result of the conducting of a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site).
- Connectivity and way-finding is poor (cycling, walking, running and way-finding signage). This is consistent across most of the municipality, particularly in the Horsham Township, where there is a lack of linkages both across the city and between open spaces.
- Many open spaces in Horsham are considered ad hoc in a planning context, and distribution is not equitable across the town and localities.
- Horsham's fantastic network of rivers, lakes and water-bodies is underutilised and disconnected from the broader open space network.

As our community grows and changes, long-term thinking and planning of our play spaces and open spaces is required. We must ensure that all of our residents are active and are able to enjoy a variety of high quality open space and natural environments.



# STRATEGIC GUIDELINES TO MEET OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles have been developed to implement this vision in practice. It is intended that Horsham's open space network will consider:

<b>Equity</b>	Provide equitable provision of open space across the municipality that accommodates all townships and community groups.	Improve open space provision in line with gaps identified in OSS and meet guidelines for size, amenity and spread of open space in each locality.
		Provide open space for a range of ages, genders, abilities and backgrounds, which address equity and equality.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Create an amenable open space network which includes formal and informal linkages to enhance accessibility in line with Universal Design principles.	Improve accessibility and connections into existing open space by removing barriers, increasing lines of sight and removing visual clutter.
		Provide open space within easy walking distance.
		Use Universal Design Principles (UDP) to enhance accessibility and connection between and into open spaces.
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	Plan and deliver open space that contributes to the overall health of the community.	Encourage a range of physical activity opportunities through open space provision.
		Provide places and spaces which contribute to social cohesion, physical and mental health, engagement, human connection, cultural diversity and connection to nature to improve liveability and wellbeing.
<b>Participation</b>	Maximise community benefit from open space by providing a range of recreation opportunities to actively use the open space network.	Provide a diverse range of opportunities for quality active and passive recreation environments, including both organised sport and unstructured activities.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Plan for future growth and changes in population distribution.	Provide open space which responds to forecast population and demographics across all localities within the municipality.
		Ensure the economic sustainability of open space by considering tourism and partnership investments.
<b>Safety</b>	Provide environments that enable safe use of open space by the community.	Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in all future development of open space to create and sustain safe communities.

# STRATEGIC GUIDELINES TO MEET OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles have been developed to implement this vision in practice. It is intended that Horsham's open space network will consider:

<b>Adaptability</b>	Ensure our open space offers flexibility in its use over time, and accommodates multiple uses and community groups both now current and in the future.	Respect and conserve character, historical and cultural heritage where appropriate whilst accommodating changes in functionality and usability of a space.
		Develop flexible, innovative and robust approaches to open space planning and design to include both temporary and permanent uses.
<b>Efficiency</b>	Manage an open space network that supports a variety of activities and optimises land use, efficiencies and increases functionality.	Ensure equitable provision and prioritisation of amenities across the municipality that enables a broad range of community uses.
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	Encourage sustainable design and management practices whilst protecting environmental and biodiversity values and mitigating climate change.	Ensure water sensitive urban design principles are applied to reduce, reuse and recycle water where possible.
		Increase the urban forest and natural shade through large canopy trees to reduce the Urban Heat Island effect.
		Incorporate mixed landscaping techniques where turf is prominent to reduce pressure on natural resources.
		Use energy efficient products and sustainable materials whilst considering their source, lifecycle and ongoing maintenance.
		Incorporate Ecological Design Principles (EDP) into future open space developments and upgrades.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Ensure biodiversity values are implemented through location and planting to maximise habitat and wildlife corridors.	Protect, enhance and create natural environments to increase wildlife corridors.
		Restore and preserve existing bushland and remnant vegetation areas.
		Encourage a broad use of flora species to enhance biodiversity and ecological values.
<b>Design and Place-making</b>	Providing well designed and aesthetically pleasing open spaces for the community.	Ensure all existing and future open space is aligned with best practice and Victoria's Urban Design Guidelines to ensure high quality spaces are achieved.
		Ensure a holistic approach to the design, functionality, quality, aesthetics and amenity of all open space.
		Incorporate place-making principles to active spaces in-line with community needs and wants.



# STRATEGIC PILLARS

The Horsham Open Space Strategy considers the open space network for Horsham overall, including the major centres of Horsham and Natimuk, as well as outlying townships and localities. The key strategic pillars are:



**Increase connectivity**



**Redefine the Wimmera River**



**Improve open space**



**Enhance collaboration**



**Invest and plan for our future**



**Colour and green our region**

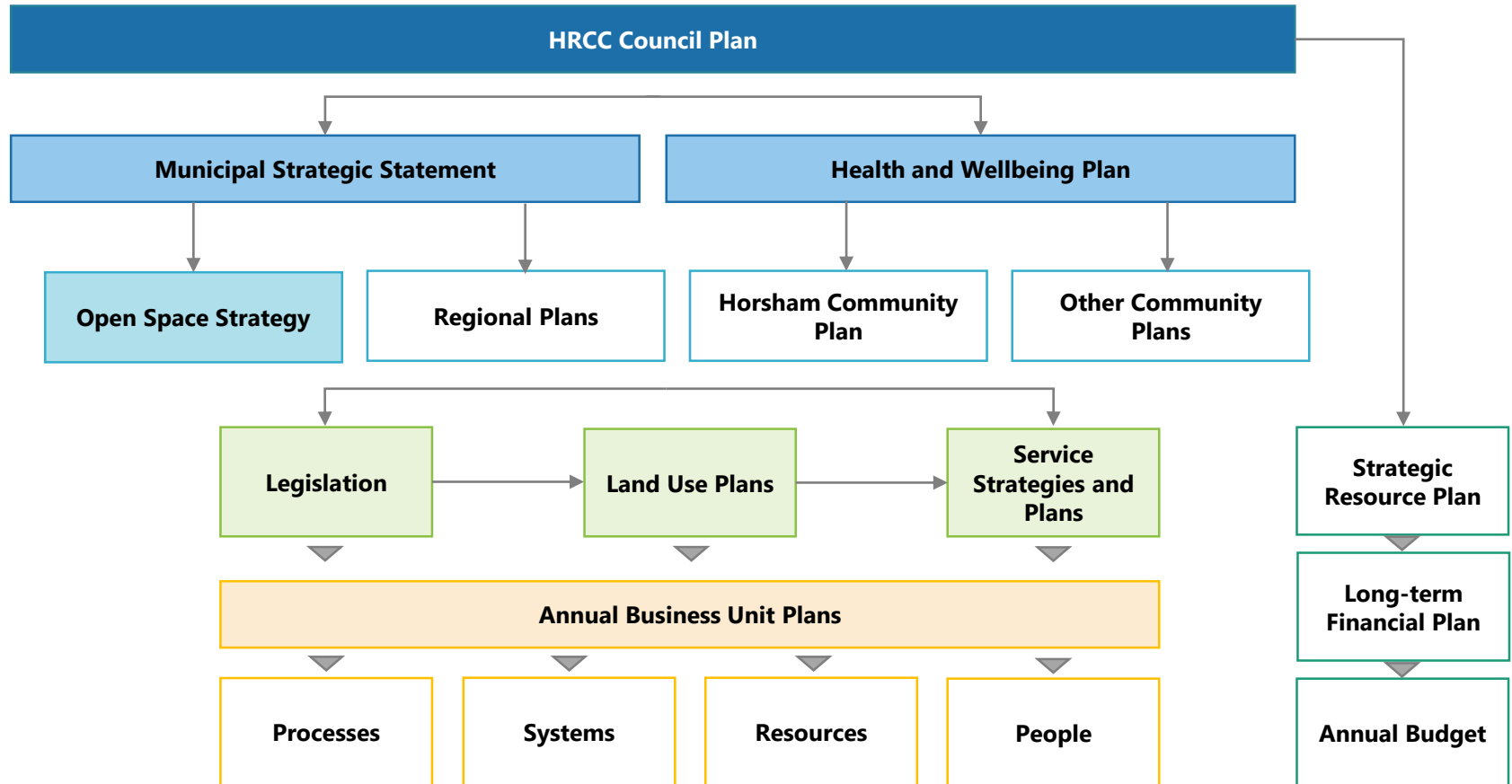


**Recognise and celebrate culture**

More detailed considerations regarding specific localities are provided throughout this document.

# **POLICY CONTEXT**

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The Council Plan covers all aspects of Councils operations and sphere of influence. Input is provided to the Council Plan from a variety of external documents and processes such as the Open Space Strategy, as well as legislation, regional plans, local community plans, documents and strategies from within the community more broadly. Two other key documents that take

direction from and give direction to the Council Plan and Open Space Strategy are the Municipal Strategic Statement and the Health and Wellbeing Plan. These documents are required under separate legislation and therefore are stand-alone documents in their own right, but they should not be developed without reference to the Council Plan, and vice versa.

# KEY DOCUMENT REVIEW FINDINGS

In developing this strategy, a review of key documents was undertaken to provide a deeper understanding of Horsham Rural City Council's strategic direction, policies and practices. This included a review of 18 internal Council plans and policies, and 11 external documents from State Government, other LGA's and organisations to provide key learnings. A summary of the implications from key Council documents has been provided below.

## **Council Plan 2018-2022**

The Council Plan 2018–2022 sets the strategic direction of Council over the next four years, linking the community's vision to long-term community goals, four-year outcomes and four-year priorities for Horsham Rural City Council.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Community and Cultural Development – Develop Horsham and the municipality as a diverse, inclusive and vibrant community.
- Asset Management – Meet community and service needs through provision and maintenance of infrastructure.
- Natural Environment – Lead in environmental best practice, create a municipality for the future, and plan for the impacts of climate change. Encourage and increase awareness of environmental responsibilities within Council and the community, whilst planning for a growing municipality, and implement practices that minimise our environmental footprint and contribute to a sustainable future.

## **Municipal Strategic Statement**

The Municipal Strategic Statement acts as the Local Planning Policy for Horsham and serves as a reference point of expectation for any future planning and development decisions, as well as provides amendments to current active plans.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Developmental Adaptation – Acknowledge the demographic changes of Horsham, and work to include the diversification in future planning.
- Sustainable Preservation – While creating new plans, land use and environmental efficiency must be factored in and spotlighted.
- Community Considerations – Any and all planning should be with the intention of serving the population to the highest degree, and the recognised community needs should be top priority.

## **Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021**

The Health and Wellbeing Plan was designed to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing within the Council by identifying issues and need within the community.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Health Priorities – Putting a focus on creating opportunities for residents of Horsham to lead a healthy lifestyle through the way they eat and live.
- Linkage Maintenance – Upkeeping and upgrading linkages such as walking trails and cycling paths will be critical to improving active living.
- Healthy Mindset – The mental health and community cohesion benefits that open space provides are also critical to improving health outcomes for the community.



# KEY DOCUMENT REVIEW FINDINGS



## Sport and Recreation Strategy 2009

The Sport and Recreation Strategy provides guidance to the sport and recreation advisory committee and the Council. The strategy was created to identify and evaluate existing sport and recreation needs, and service delivery within the municipality.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Priority Identification – Recognise the region’s funding requirements and prioritise the development proposals accordingly.
- Future Anticipation – Analyse the delivery of past services to identify the projection of the municipality’s imminent needs.
- Proactive Approach – Manage the assets in anticipation of dynamic changes and in the best long-term interest of the community.

## Youth Strategy 2018-2028

The Horsham Rural City Council Youth Strategy contains Council’s strategic directions for the delivery of contemporary youth services. It provides a commitment to improving the lives of young people by helping them to realise their rights.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Landscape Recognition – Identify the gaps and opportunities for the provision and enablement of youth empowerment.
- Community Pulse – Include the youth population of Horsham and factor in their needs when making plans that will impact their wellbeing.
- Population Engagement – Distinguish the diversity in Horsham’s population and consider what will benefit the entire community rather than sole distinguished groups.

## Disability Access and Action Plan 2013-2016

The Horsham Rural City Council Disability Access and Action Plan identifies and outlines steps to reduce barriers created by attitudes, practices and structures while recognising everyone’s responsibility to advocate for equal access, opportunity and participation.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Education and Application – Increase awareness of the community to promote inclusive practices.
- Environmental Mindfulness – Develop regional infrastructure to include and promote accessible options for everyone in the community, regardless of physical ability.
- Social Connection – Create meeting places through open spaces that allow all of the Horsham community to establish connections with one another.

# KEY DOCUMENT REVIEW FINDINGS

## Wimmera River Corridor Plan (Draft) 2018

The Wimmera River Corridor Plan provides guidance for future uses and developments of the Wimmera River while outlining how the river corridor can be developed to capitalise on its strengths as an asset.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Acknowledgement of Importance – The Wimmera River is a major asset to the city and an essential consideration to open space planning.
- Linkage Creation – A large component to all future planning must incorporate the development of linkages between the river and the rest of the township.
- Encourage Usage – Enhancing infrastructure, amenities and facilities along the river corridor will encourage increased community usage and activity.



## Bicycle & Shared Path Plan (2012-2016)

The Bicycle & Shared Path Plan provides further analysis of the 2004 Horsham Strategic Bike Plan, and outlines planning recommendations for the implementation of a more extensive cycling network.

The key goals relevant to the Open Space Strategy are:

- Safety Prioritisation – Reduce the perceived and actual dangers of cycling through the region, which will lead to an increased positive opinion and participation.
- Gap Analysis – Recognise the areas which have not progressed since the implementation of the 2004 Strategic Plan, improve connectivity, and consider future plans to improve cycling in Horsham.
- Promote Active Travel – Utilise the proximity of Horsham's facilities to its residents and encourage the highlighting of the mental and physical benefits of an active lifestyle.





## **REGIONAL CONTEXT**

# POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The Horsham Rural City Council is located in the Wimmera region of Victoria, just under four-hours drive from Melbourne. The council is bordered by Yarriambiack, Northern Grampians, Southern Grampians, West Wimmera and Hindmarsh Shires.

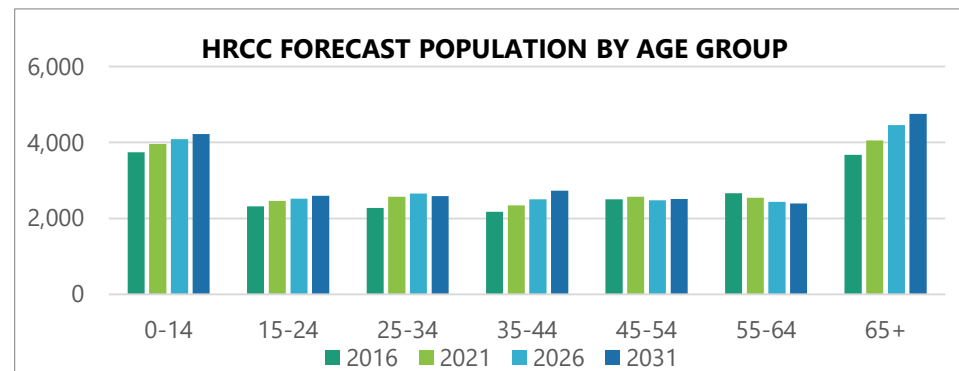
Horsham is the main population centre for the Wimmera and Southern Mallee region. At the time of the 2016 Census, the Shire's population was approximately 19,627. Of the 2016 population:

- 49% are male and 51% female.
- 19% of the population are aged 14 years or younger and 62% between 15 and 64 years.
- 82% of the population live within the Horsham Township.
- 298 people (1.5% of the local population) identified themselves as being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

Results from the 2016 Census, and future population projections reveal that Horsham will experience population growth over the next 15 years. **Between 2016 and 2031, the population is expected to grow by approximately 2,167 people**, with an additional 600 people added to the population every five years. In 2031, the estimated population is projected to reach 21,794.

While Horsham's population is projected to grow, it is important to recognise that the broader Wimmera region is experiencing population decline. Although Horsham will experience overall population growth over the next 15-years (11%), the extent of this growth is below the average for both Regional Victoria (18%) and Victoria (28%).

Source: ABS Census, 2016



HRCC 2016 POPULATION BY AGE									
Locality Name	0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
Brimpaen	55	22	15	35	26	26	27	7	4
Central Horsham	82	64	67	64	64	99	104	92	46
Drung	47	31	20	20	44	45	31	6	3
Haven	298	153	98	186	237	186	104	32	9
Horsham East	454	307	332	256	318	375	287	240	197
Horsham Inner North	191	175	179	142	130	164	143	86	50
Horsham North	692	445	465	321	353	463	302	204	64
Horsham South	362	214	229	227	213	180	153	108	28
Horsham South West	534	295	347	291	342	363	333	256	86
Horsham West	379	246	261	230	237	210	193	123	53
Jung	56	53	20	18	27	34	26	6	0
Laharum	28	27	15	19	36	47	26	11	5
McKenzie Creek	80	35	35	44	68	56	33	17	3
Natimuk	38	24	31	40	68	73	36	41	37
Natimuk District	55	19	12	36	34	31	20	10	6
Pimpinio and Kalkee	85	20	39	45	44	59	24	17	4
Quantong	53	44	29	41	57	38	34	12	3
Riverside	74	59	21	53	87	61	38	14	11
Toolondo	60	14	25	29	25	56	19	9	4
Vectis and Dooen	47	48	21	33	51	31	40	23	3
Wartook	70	19	15	40	37	63	44	15	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3740</b>	<b>2314</b>	<b>2276</b>	<b>2170</b>	<b>2498</b>	<b>2660</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>1329</b>	<b>623</b>



# POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Knowledge of how the population age structure will change is important for planning open space.

There are **three key levers which influence population growth: births, net migration and deaths** (natural increase). The forecast age groups of the Horsham Rural City is a function of the current age of the population (people aging each year, being born and dying) as well as the age of people migrating into and out of the area. This in turn is driven by location, access to existing housing, the amount and type of new residential development and where the area is positioned in a cycle of change.

Some areas are more driven by one factor than others. Migration is largely driven by housing development and employment opportunities, whereas natural increase is a function of the age of the population.

- **In 2016, the age bracket with the highest proportion of the population was 0-14 years** (3,740 people), accounting for 19% of the total population (19,627).
- **The largest increase in people between 2016 and 2031 is expected in the 65+ age bracket** (29% total growth) followed by the 35-44 age bracket (26% growth).
- The population aged 55-64 is expected to decline by 10%.

These projections show **the current population of Horsham is ageing** which is primarily due to the high percentage growth of the 65 plus age segment. Over the next 20-30 years, Horsham is likely to see a significant increase in population of residents 60 years and over, and population decline of residents aged 50 or less.

**FORECAST POPULATION AND BENCHMARKS – 2016 - 2031**

		0-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
Horsham	2016	3,740	2,314	2,276	2,170	2,498	2,660	3,969	19,627
	2031	4,222	2,597	2,587	2,726	2,513	2,394	4,755	21,794
	% growth	13%	12%	14%	26%	1%	-10%	29%	11%
Ballarat	2016	20,170	15,362	13,779	12,758	12,671	11,820	16,690	103,250
	2031	27,128	19,086	18,166	17,873	15,479	13,884	25,258	136,874
	% growth	34%	24%	32%	40%	22%	17%	51%	33%
Bendigo	2016	21,504	15,287	13,898	13,298	14,038	13,725	18,695	110,445
	2031	27,685	18,363	18,323	18,655	16,480	15,374	29,753	144,633
	% growth	29%	20%	32%	40%	17%	12%	59%	31%
Regional Victoria	2016	264,219	171,966	157,327	167,700	190,441	192,513	276,427	1,420,593
	2031	297,665	188,492	187,222	200,272	191,352	200,167	409,328	1,674,497
	% growth	13%	10%	19%	19%	0%	4%	48%	18%
Victoria	2016	1,106,043	786,904	930,584	826,185	791,476	685,936	921,639	6,048,767
	2031	1,395,238	952,542	1,036,078	1,097,932	964,541	837,555	1,449,372	7,733,258
	% growth	26%	21%	11%	33%	22%	22%	57%	28%

Source: Victoria in Future 2016, DELWP

Open space has a variety of health and well-being benefits, including the provision of opportunities for social connection, places for formal and informal exercise, spaces to relax and unwind and opportunities to connect with the natural environment.

While Horsham residents are more active than the average Victorian population, there are still a number of areas for improvement pertaining to health and wellbeing which can be attended to through open space.

In Horsham:

- **Nearly half (48.5%) of HRCC residents are sufficiently active**, compared to only 41.4% of Victorians.
- Approximately **1 in 5 Horsham residents are classified as obese**.
- **49.9% of Horsham residents reported feelings of an adequate work-life balance** in Horsham.
- Only **54.4% of adults** – 87.1% of males and 62.1% of females – in Horsham **feel safe walking at night**.
- More **residents in Horsham (49.6%) are suffering from avoidable death by cardiovascular diseases** than the average Victoria population (33.8%).

Prioritising the mental wellbeing of Horsham residents (along with their physical health) will increase the livability and appeal of the region. It is important that future planning considers the development and promotion of open spaces that will encourage HRCC community members to be more active, provide feelings of safety and opportunities to escape from the pressures of everyday life.

## HEALTH STATUS

Health Indicators	Horsham	Grampians Region	Victoria
<b>Obesity</b>	21.4%	25.0%	18.8%
<b>Sedentary</b> People reporting no physical activity during the week	1.8%	2.7%	3.6%
<b>Insufficiently Active</b> < 150 mins or < 2 sessions/wk	44.5%	50.9%	50.4%
<b>Sufficiently Active</b> ≥ 150 mins or ≥ 2 sessions/wk	48.5%	41.0%	41.4%

Source: Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Population Health Survey 2014

## WELLBEING STATUS

Physical Activity	Horsham	Victoria
<b>Mental Health</b> Residents reporting symptoms of anxiety and depression	33.4%	25%
<b>Work-Life Balance</b> Percentage of population reporting adequate balance	49.9%	57.3%
<b>Safety at Night</b> Feelings of safety walking alone after dark	54.4%	55.1%
<b>Cardiovascular Disease</b> Rate of avoidable death	49.6%	33.8%

Source: HRCC Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021



## **CONSULTATION FINDINGS**

# WHAT IS OUR COMMUNITY TELLING US?

A variety of consultation methods have been undertaken to facilitate a high level of community engagement. This will promote an in-depth understanding of the issues and proposed directions for open space planning and provision in the municipality. This has included the following:

- **30 depth interviews** with identified stakeholders from various sectors, including government, healthcare, sport and recreation organisations, and other agencies, as well as personnel from within HRCC, including Councillors and key staff;
- An online survey with the local community and key stakeholders which received a total of **251 complete responses** (reportedly one of the highest response rates Council has had from the community);
- Community feedback via the Pozi interactive mapping tool, which had a total of **326 interactions** including 178 dropped pins, and;
- Two community forums, held on March 19th and March 20th 2019 at the Council offices with **20 attendees**.

Key findings from this process were:

- The town, its **open space and its iconic assets need regeneration** and investment to ensure they meet growing needs and changing demand. In order to re-position the town as a true hub for the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, the **icons of the region** need to be celebrated.
- **Tree canopy and shade including rest/relaxation spaces are lacking** in the CAD and throughout the whole municipality.
- Dedicated and signed **pedestrian and cycle linkages** are needed to connect the whole city.
- A **strong underlying connection to the river and lakes system** is not overt and the river precinct needs activating. The **river should be a key**

**destination** and needs several additions like family spaces, a splash park and permanent food, drink and entertainment.

- Shared **civic/community and green spaces** within walking distance of the CAD are missing.
- The **Entry/Exits to Horsham** need rejuvenation to demonstrate the community pride in the town and region.
- Many **natural areas and open spaces** don't have the right mix of **assets and amenities**, and local parks and passive recreation spaces need enhancement to encourage greater use.
- Some of the city's **key assets are perceived as closed most of the time/day**.
- The **Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park is an icon** for HRCC. As an internationally significant destination for rock climbing, it has an enduring appeal that draws thousands of visitors from around the world each year.
- **Indigenous story-telling** is missing through much of the region and needs to be addressed.
- **Protecting nature reserves** and wildlife, and creating **more natural areas for families and children to play** are necessary to provide quality open spaces for future generations.
- North Horsham is **underserved by open space and linkages** between them.
- West and South Horsham are two of the growing localities of Horsham, and in some parts, **new housing developments have proceeded with inadequate consideration of open space**.





**OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM**

# ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

## Benchmarking

To plan the provision of open space, a benchmark of between 2.83 hectares (ha) and 5 ha per 1,000 people is used in most states. For Victoria, there is no consistent benchmark for open space provision that is commonly used across all municipalities. The 2.83ha figure is primarily used in NSW and is based on 0.8ha/1,000 for parklands and gardens and 2.0ha/1,000 for outdoor sports – it generally does not include drainage areas or natural areas.

In Western Australia, the requirement is that 10% of the gross sub-divisible area of a conditional subdivision shall be given up free of cost by the sub-divider for public open space. South Australia has a legislative requirement of '12.5% of land for open space' which equates to around 4 ha per 1,000 people in a lower density development area of 35 hectares (based on 15 dwellings per hectare and 1.9 persons per household). This figure is consistent with benchmarks used in the ACT (4ha) and Queensland (4-5ha) but greater than the NSW benchmark.

## Current Situation

The municipality has approximately 287 ha of Council owned or managed public open space spread across 97 sites. This excludes open space fronting the river, drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls and equates to approximately 14.6 hectares of open space per 1,000 people (based on Horsham's population of 19,627 people, 2016). Within the Horsham Township area there is 158.8 ha of open space across 66 sites.

The open space within Horsham is complimented by close access to a number of Regional, State and National Parks. Within the municipality there is also 28,547 ha of open space that is managed by Parks Victoria. This includes nature conservation reserves, natural features reserves, state parks such as the Black Range State Park and national parks such as the Grampians.

Benchmarking comparisons for open space provision is provided in the adjacent table. As shown, Warrnambool has led the way in some LGA planning schemes and thinking – and Horsham is well below this specific benchmark.

## OPEN SPACE PROVISION BENCHMARKS

	Local Government Area	Hectares per 1000 people
Regional	Greater Geelong	46
	Warrnambool City Council	32.5
	Surf Coast	23
	Latrobe (excluding rural)	17.6
	<b>Horsham (Entire Region)</b>	<b>14.6</b>
	Greater Bendigo	12.1
	Ballarat	9.7
	<b>Horsham (Township)</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Metro	Melbourne	5.6
	Moonee Valley	5
	Port Phillip	4.9
	Moreland	4
	Maribyrnong	3.7
	Yarra	3.1
	Stonnington	2
	Greater Dandenong	3.6
	Knox	10

When planning public open space, the following standards should be followed:

- Local parks within 400m safe walking distance of at least 95% of all dwellings;
- Active open space within one kilometre of 95% of all dwellings;
- Linear parks and trails, most often along waterways, but also linked to vegetation corridors and road reserves within one kilometre of 95% of all dwellings;
- In residential areas, approximately 10% of the net developable area as total public open space

# OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY SUMMARY

## Hierarchy and Category

Horsham's open spaces have been classified according to a system of two central classifications – hierarchy and category.

Four tiers of open space are proposed for Horsham: Local, Neighbourhood, Municipal and Regional. These outline the typical size and how far a user might travel to visit the site. These are outlined in further detail over the following pages.

Category is based on the primary intended function of an open space. Five categories have been developed for Horsham's open space network: Sport grounds, recreation spaces, natural areas, linkages and civic spaces. Definitions of each are provided on page 28.

In assessing each open space, it became apparent that some areas have limitations around access.

It is not assumed that all open space will be able to match a specific definition. Categories and descriptions may need to be expanded or adapted within local policies to enable inclusion of specific sites, recognition of local characteristics and variation in application due to contextual setting (i.e. they can't be rigid).

The Open Space Hierarchy will be used to inform the planning and management of open space, and as a tool to direct appropriate development and maintenance levels in different types of open space.

## Current Supply of Open Space

A summary of HRCC's current open space network by hierarchy and category is presented in the table on the following page.

- 23% of open space in Horsham is classified as neighbourhood.
- 32% of open space in Horsham is classified as natural areas.
- 27% of open space is sports grounds.

HIERARCHY EXAMPLES	
Local	
Neighbourhood	
Municipal	
Regional	



# OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND FUTURE DEMAND

## Future Demand for Open Space

Demand for open space is generally based on permanent residential population. However, a number of social and geographical inputs also affect the level of demand for open space, including:

- Age and population distribution.
- Housing type and access to private open space.
- Housing density.
- Tourism and visitation.
- Inputs such as natural and man-made geographic influences.

The potential future gap compares the 2031 projected population with the current open space footprint. In 2031, an additional 31.7 of open space will be required to maintain the current open space provision (of 14.6ha per 1,000 residents).

With Horsham West predicted to be the key locality attracting population growth, this area should also be the focus for any additional parklands and gardens.

While there is currently a good supply of outdoor sporting facilities across Horsham, there are currently no outdoor sporting precincts in Horsham that align to sporting association requirements to host regional events.

Future planning to maintain the current provision of open space should include the development of regional standard sports facilities, in line with the Sporting Facilities Demand Study.

## OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BY HIERARCHY

Hierarchy	Current Supply (Ha)	Current Supply (per 1000)	Future Demand (ha)	Future Gap (ha)
<b>Local</b>	18.8	1.0	20.9	2.1
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	66.5	3.4	73.8	7.3
<b>Municipal</b>	51.7	2.6	57.4	5.7
<b>Regional</b>	149.7	7.6	166.3	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>286.7</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>318.4</b>	<b>31.7</b>

## OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND DEMAND BY CATEGORY

Hierarchy	Supply (Ha)	Supply (per 1000)	Future Demand (ha)	Future Gap (ha)
<b>Natural areas</b>	91.8	4.7	101.9	10.1
<b>Sports grounds</b>	76.6	3.9	85.1	8.5
<b>Other</b>	71.5	3.6	79.4	7.9
<b>Recreation spaces</b>	44.9	2.3	49.9	5.0
<b>Linkages</b>	1.9	0.1	2.2	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>286.7</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>318.4</b>	<b>31.7</b>



# OPEN SPACE SUPPLY AND FUTURE DEMAND

## CURRENT OPEN SPACE SUPPLY

	Local		Neighbourhood		Municipal		Regional		Total	
	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)	Number	Area (Ha)
Brimpaen	1	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.0
Central Horsham	6	4.8	2	8.0	1	11.4	0	0.0	9	24.2
Drung	1	0.9	0	0.0	1	5.3	0	0.0	2	6.3
Haven	3	1.8	1	2.0	2	15.6	0	0.0	6	19.4
Horsham East	6	2.4	6	12.8	0	0.0	1	21.8	13	37.0
Horsham Inner North	2	0.2	1	1.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	1.5
Horsham North	8	0.8	5	7.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	13	8.4
Horsham South	7	2.0	1	4.3	0	0.0	1	44.6	9	50.9
Horsham South West	9	0.9	3	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	4.0
Horsham West	6	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	32.3	7	32.9
Jung	1	0.7	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.8
Laharum	0	0.0	1	4.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	4.5
Natimuk	1	0.4	2	7.8	1	0.0	0	0.0	4	8.3
Natimuk District	1	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.8
Pimpinio	2	1.2	2	7.8	1	12.1	0	0.0	5	21.2
Quantong	1	0.1	1	3.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	4.0
Riverside	1	0.7	0	0.0	1	7.2	0	0.0	2	7.9
Toolondo	1	0.2	2	2.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	2.4
Vectis	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	51.1	2	51.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>149.7</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>286.7</b>

## CURRENT OPEN SPACE DEMAND AND FUTURE GAP

	Local		Neighbourhood		Municipal		Regional		Total	
	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap	Demand	Future gap
Horsham (Township)	13.0	1.3	41.1	4.1	12.7	1.3	109.6	10.9	176.4	17.5
Horsham (Outlying Localities)	8.0	0.8	32.7	3.3	44.7	4.4	56.7	5.6	142.0	14.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>166.3</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>318.4</b>	<b>31.7</b>

# OPEN SPACE HIERARCHY

	Local	Neighbourhood	Municipal	Regional
<b>Description</b>	Provides at least enough space for two activities or groups to use the open space simultaneously, for example an open grassed area with seating and playground. Primarily used for recreation. frequent, short duration visits within a short walking distance of users.	Provides facilities and features that appeal to the neighbourhood population including a range of unstructured recreation and informal facilities. Intended for frequent, short duration visits within a walking or cycling distance of users.	Provides facilities and features that attract the municipal-wide population and/or protect biodiversity/heritage values. This can include structured sporting facilities, historical gardens or major recreation facilities including fitness equipment and multi-purpose courts. People may need to travel a short distance to reach them.	Primarily caters to the broader regional population and/or protection and enhancement of biodiversity values in a regional context. These parks attract users from within and beyond the municipality and cater for a broad cross-section of ages. Most people drive to these.
<b>Activities</b>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's play spaces</li> <li>Seating</li> <li>Relaxation/resting spots</li> </ul>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combination of open parkland and bushland</li> <li>Sport and recreation facilities for unstructured activity</li> <li>Spaces for casual play</li> <li>Seating</li> <li>Relaxation/resting spots</li> </ul>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sufficient space to accommodate a variety of concurrent activities</li> <li>Children's play spaces</li> <li>Seating</li> </ul> May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of organised sports</li> <li>Dog exercise areas</li> </ul>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant environmental or tourism value</li> <li>Seating</li> <li>Public toilets</li> <li>Drinking fountains</li> </ul> May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural wetlands and reserves</li> <li>Organised sports</li> <li>Dog exercise areas</li> </ul>
<b>Typical Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.2ha – 1ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 1 ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 5 ha</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any</li> </ul>
<b>Typical Catchment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>300m – 500m safe walking distance from dwellings and workplaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>500m to 1km safe walking distance from dwellings and workplaces or approx. 10 minute walk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located within 2 km of 95% of dwellings</li> <li>500m walking distance applied for neighbourhood use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unlimited for regional visitors</li> <li>500m distance applied for neighbourhood use</li> </ul>
<b>Example for Horsham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charisma Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natimuk Creek Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haven Recreation Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May Park, Weir Park and Adventure Island</li> </ul>

\* Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

# CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

CATEGORY					
Sport grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic spaces	Other
Facilities used for competitive sport, including sports fields and courts, as well as supporting infrastructure such as play spaces, seating, clubhouses and amenities.	Active or passive recreation spaces including parks with social areas such as BBQs, gardens, play spaces for young and old, walking tracks and fitness equipment, and dog exercise areas. Also includes unembellished parks.	Spaces managed to protect, enhance and create natural environments such as waterways (which include wetlands), increased habitat for wildlife, restoration and preservation of existing bushland areas and increased tree canopy coverage of the municipality.	Cycle and/or pedestrian paths that connect to other areas of open space or destinations such as town centres, schools and natural assets.	Spaces for community and civic events like town halls and community centres.	Types of open space that do not fit into any of the previous categories and do not have a distinct purpose, such as drainage reserves and stormwater basins.
Example: City Oval	Example: Weir Park	Example: Burnt Creek Reserve	Example: Barnes Boulevard Walking Track	Example: Telangatuk East Hall Reserve	Example: Osbourne Road Drainage Reserve

Note: Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

# SUB-CATEGORIES OF OPEN SPACE IN HORSHAM

SUB-CATEGORY							
SPORT GROUNDS	RECREATION SPACES		NATURAL AREAS		LINKAGES	CIVIC SPACES	OTHER
Sports fields and organised recreation	Parks and gardens	Transport reservations	Protected area estates	Natural and semi-natural open space	Recreation corridors	Civic squares and promenades	Drainage Reserves and Stormwater Basins
Areas primarily used for playing organised (often club-based) sport in an outdoor setting. These places can accommodate informal recreation activities, e.g. picnic areas, play spaces.	Landscaped areas that provide for a range of non-organised recreation and informal activities. Such areas can also have natural values and may provide pedestrian and or bicycle links between streets.	Areas of informal open space within or adjacent to an existing or future transport reservation. Such spaces can be of a temporary nature and subject to transformation in response to evolving transport priorities.	Areas set aside for the conservation and protection of natural ecosystems, landscape character and/or historical and scenic features. They are also for enjoyment through appropriate recreation. These are typically managed by Parks Victoria.	May include land managed for the conservation that is not included in Victoria's protected area system. Can include long, interconnected areas of open space which may provide visual buffers, movement corridors for pedestrians, cyclists) and/or flora and fauna.	Trails used for walking and/ or cycling that link areas of open space, and provide formal or informal connections between and within neighbourhoods and districts.	Major open areas used for non-organised recreation and informal activities, such as community gatherings.	A parcel of land set aside for drainage purposes. Drainage Reserves usually contain either a drainage basin or an open drain.
Example: Haven Tennis Courts	Example: Botanical Gardens	Example: Menadue Street Roadside Reserve	Example: Mitre Lake Flora and Fauna Reserve	Example: Haven Community Dam	Example: Major Mitchell Drive River Frontage	Example: Horsham Skate Park	Example: Burnt Creek Drainage Reserve

Note: Definitions have been developed in alignment with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

# OPEN SPACE AND PLAY SPACE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

The following table provides guidance for the upgrade and development of existing open space and play spaces.

	Local parks & play spaces	Neighbourhood parks & play spaces	Municipal parks & play spaces	Regional parks & play spaces
Play elements for different ages	Unlikely – focus on natural play/green space	✓	✓	✓
Open areas for informal play	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural play	Value add	Value add	✓	✓
Irrigated grass	Value add	Recommended	✓	✓
Landscaping – shrub vegetation/garden beds	✓	✓	✓	✓
Basketball goals/nets/hitting walls	✗	Value add	Recommended	Subject to demand
Accessible Equipment	Value add	Recommended	Recommended	✓
Pathways	✓	✓	✓	✓
Universal Access Design (UAD)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural shade	✓	✓	✓	✓
Structured shade/shelter	✗	✗	Might have shelter	✓
Seating	✓	✓	✓	✓
Picnic tables	Recommended	Recommended	✓	✓
Public toilets	✗	✗	✓	✓
BBQ's	✗	✗	Value add	✓
Access to water	✗	✗	✓	✓
Bins – Waste and Recycling	✗	Recommended	Both	✓
Lighting	✗	Recommended	✓	✓
Signage – Wayfinding and history	Recommended	✓	✓	✓
Car parking	✗	✗	✗	✓
Bicycle racks	Value add	Value add	Recommended	✓
Public art	Value add	Value add	Recommended	✓
Maintenance frequency	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Daily
Inspections	3 times per year	3 times per year	4 times per year	Monthly and annual
Access for maintenance vehicles	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend:  
✓ = Compulsory  
✗ = Not compulsory

Note: Fencing to be determined on a site-by-site basis and all future re-developments to be designed by a landscape architect



# OPEN SPACE AND PLAY SPACE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

In addition to the Open Space and Play Space Development Guidelines on the previous page, the following Urban Design Guidelines and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Guidelines should be incorporated when designing, developing and upgrading open space and play spaces.

## Urban Design Guidelines

The Urban Design Guidelines for Victoria support state agencies, local government and the urban development sector to deliver functional and enjoyable places for people to live, work, and spend leisure time. The guidelines are based around six key areas:

- **Urban structure:** Urban structure principles, activity centre structure, large development site structure, higher density residential precinct structure, and public realm structure.
- **Movement network:** Movement network principles, pedestrian priority streets, pedestrian and bicycle paths, pedestrian and bicycle crossings, major roads, public transport on roads, on-street parking, and car parking lots.
- **Public spaces:** Public space principles, street spaces and plazas, local parks, communal open spaces.
- **Public transport environs:** Public transport environs principles. railway station precincts, public transport interchanges, and railway corridor environs.
- **Buildings:** Buildings in activity centres, higher density residential buildings, large format retail premises, and car parking structures.
- **Objects in the public realm:** Principles for objects in the public realm, street and park furniture, trees and planting, barriers and fences, lighting, signs and way-finding, and small public buildings and structures.

## Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

The aim of these Guidelines is to influence and inform decisions about designing and managing the built environment, so that our communities, towns and cities are safer. Each CPTED response needs to focus on:

- Local space
- Local people
- Local situations and solutions

Key CPTED principles to be incorporated into open space planning and Horsham's open space network are outlined below:

- **Natural Surveillance:** Criminals are less likely to commit a crime when there is a chance they may be seen. Likewise, members of the community are likely to feel safer if they can be seen. Landscape planning and urban design that enhances the chance of being seen is a form of natural surveillance.
- **Natural Access Control:** Part of creating a controlled open space is focusing on entry and exit points into parks, neighbourhoods and parking lots.
- **Space Activation and Management:** Well maintained open space creates a sense of place for the community and spaces that are well looked after send out messages to would-be offenders that the community cares.
- **Territorial Reinforcement:** The use of physical attributes creates defined lines between public open spaces such as low shrub plantings, lighting, signage and landscaping.



# **HORSHAM LOCALITY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Horsham Rural City Council includes the major centres of Horsham and Natimuk, and the localities of: Arapiles, Blackheath, Brimpaen, Bungalally, Clear Lake, Dadswells Bridge, Dooen, Douglas, Drung, Duchembegarra, Grass Flat, Green Lake, Greenland Dam, Haven, Jilpanger, Jung, Kalkee, Kanagulk, Kewell, Laharum, Longerenong, Lower Norton, McKenzie Creek, Mitre, Mockinya, Mount Talbot, Murra Warra, Noradjuha, Nurrabiel, Pimpinio, Quantong, Riverside, St Helens Plains, Telangatuk East, Tooan, Toolondo, Vectis, Wail, Wartook and Wonwondah.

Differences between localities in a number of factors (age, demographics, landscape, land use, location and open space provision) mean that the open space network can vary quite vastly across the municipality.

## Explanation of how locality names and boundaries have been selected:

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) provides a framework of statistical areas used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and other organisations to enable the publication and use of statistics that are comparable and spatially integrated.

Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) are designed to maximise the spatial detail available for Census data. Most SA1s have a population of between 200 to 800 persons with an average population of approximately 400 persons. SA1s aim to separate areas with different geographic characteristics within locality boundaries.

Within the Horsham LGA boundary, there are 49 SA1s. For the purpose of this strategy, Horsham has been divided into 19 different localities, based on the SA1 borders. This has allowed a more detailed analysis of the quantity and coverage of existing and future open space.

An explanation of how each SA1 region has been allocated within Horsham is shown in the table to the right and visually, on page 32 and 50.

Open Space Locality Name		ABS SA1 Code
<b>Horsham Region</b>	Toolondo	2138901
	Brimpaen	2138902
	Wartook	2138903
	McKenzie Creek	2138904
	Drung	2138905
	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	2138906
	Natimuk	2138907
	Pimpinio and Kalkee	2138908
	Jung	2138909
	Vectis and Dooen	2138910
	Quantong	2138911
	Natimuk District	2138912
Open Space Locality Name		ABS SA1 Code (21388XX)
<b>Horsham Township</b>	Central Horsham	03, 31
	Horsham North	02, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
	Horsham Inner North	21, 32, 33
	Horsham East	04, 07, 28, 34, 35
	Horsham South	17, 29, 30
	Horsham South West	05, 06, 16, 25, 26, 36, 37
	Horsham West	15, 22, 23, 24
	Riverside	18, 19, 20, 27
	Haven	01

# LOCALITY ANALYSIS – PROVISION RATING

Each locality has been allocated a provision rating based on the ratio of open space within the region. The provision rating is based on the hectares of open space per 1000 people, as shown below:

Low: <4  
Adequate: 4 – 20  
High: 20 – 30  
Very High: >30

A detailed breakdown of the provision rating for each locality is shown to the right. Horsham Inner North, Horsham North and Horsham South West are among the localities with a low provision of open space.

In contrast, Central Horsham, Pimpinio and Vectis have a very high provision of open space per 1,000 people.

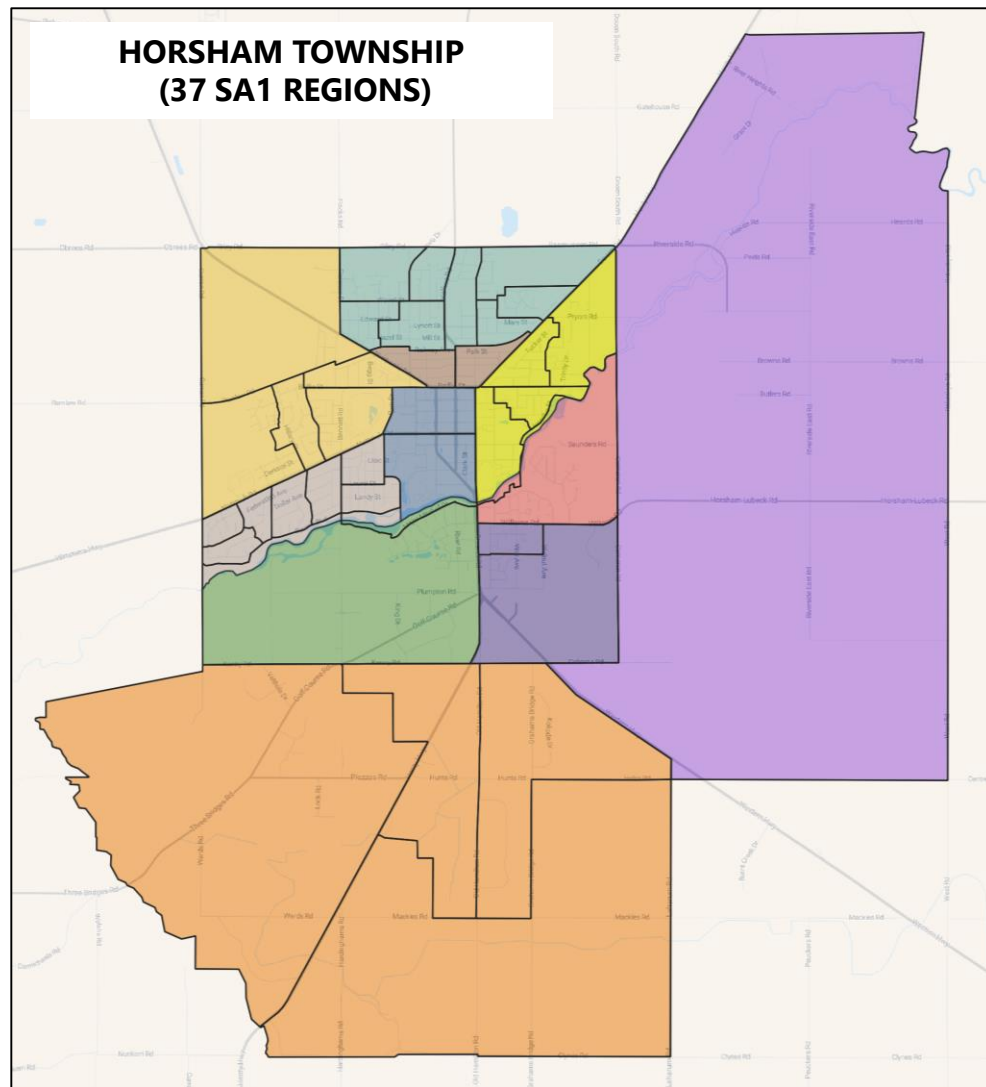
	Open Space Provision (Ha)	Open Space Provision (Ha/1000 people)	Provision Rating
McKenzie Creek	0.0	0.0	Low
Wartook	0.0	0.0	Low
Brimpaen	0.0	0.1	Low
Horsham Inner North	1.5	1.2	Low
Horsham South West	4.0	1.4	Low
Horsham North	8.4	2.5	Low
Jung	1.8	7.5	Adequate
Toolondo	2.4	10.1	Adequate
Quantong	4.0	12.9	Adequate
Horsham East	37.0	13.4	Adequate
Natimuk and District	9.1	14.9	Adequate
Haven	19.4	14.9	Adequate
Horsham West	32.9	17.0	Adequate
Riverside	7.9	18.9	Adequate
Laharum	4.5	21.0	High
Drung	6.3	25.3	High
Horsham South	50.9	29.7	High
Central Horsham	24.2	35.5	Very High
Pimpinio	21.2	62.8	Very High
Vectis	51.3	172.7	Very High





# **HORSHAM TOWNSHIP LOCALITY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

# GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



## Horsham Township

Open Space Precinct/Region Name	ABS SA1 Code (21388XX)
Central Horsham	03*, 31
Horsham North	02, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14
Horsham Inner-North	32, 33
Horsham East	28*
Horsham North East	04, 07, 34*, 35*
Horsham South East	29, 30
Horsham South	17*
Horsham South-West	05, 06*, 16*, 25*, 26, 36*, 37*
Horsham West	15, 21, 22, 23, 24
Haven	18, 19, 20, 27
Riverside	01

\* Denotes SA1 boundaries realigned with Wimmera River.

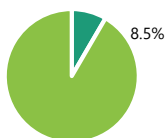
## Specific Description of Open Space in Central Horsham

- Central Horsham is an established area based around the Central Activity District (CAD). Provision of open space in this locality is among the highest in the municipality, with 102 hectares per 1,000 people. This is due to the number of open spaces surrounding the river.
- Open space assets within this region include the Botanic Gardens, City Oval, Sawyer Park and the river foreshore. Together these form the iconic centre-piece of the open space network in Horsham, with high usage and visitation.

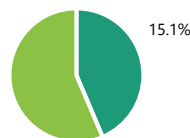
## Fast Facts:



24.2 ha of open space in the locality



8.5% of all open space in Horsham



15.1% of the total locality area is open space



Local=20%  
Neighbourhood=33%  
Municipal=47%  
Regional=0%

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	3	3	2	1	0	0
Hectares	4.48	16.73	2.91	0.12	0.00	0.00
Proportion	18%	69%	12%	0%	0%	0%
2016 Population	2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating	
682	760		35.5		Very High	

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

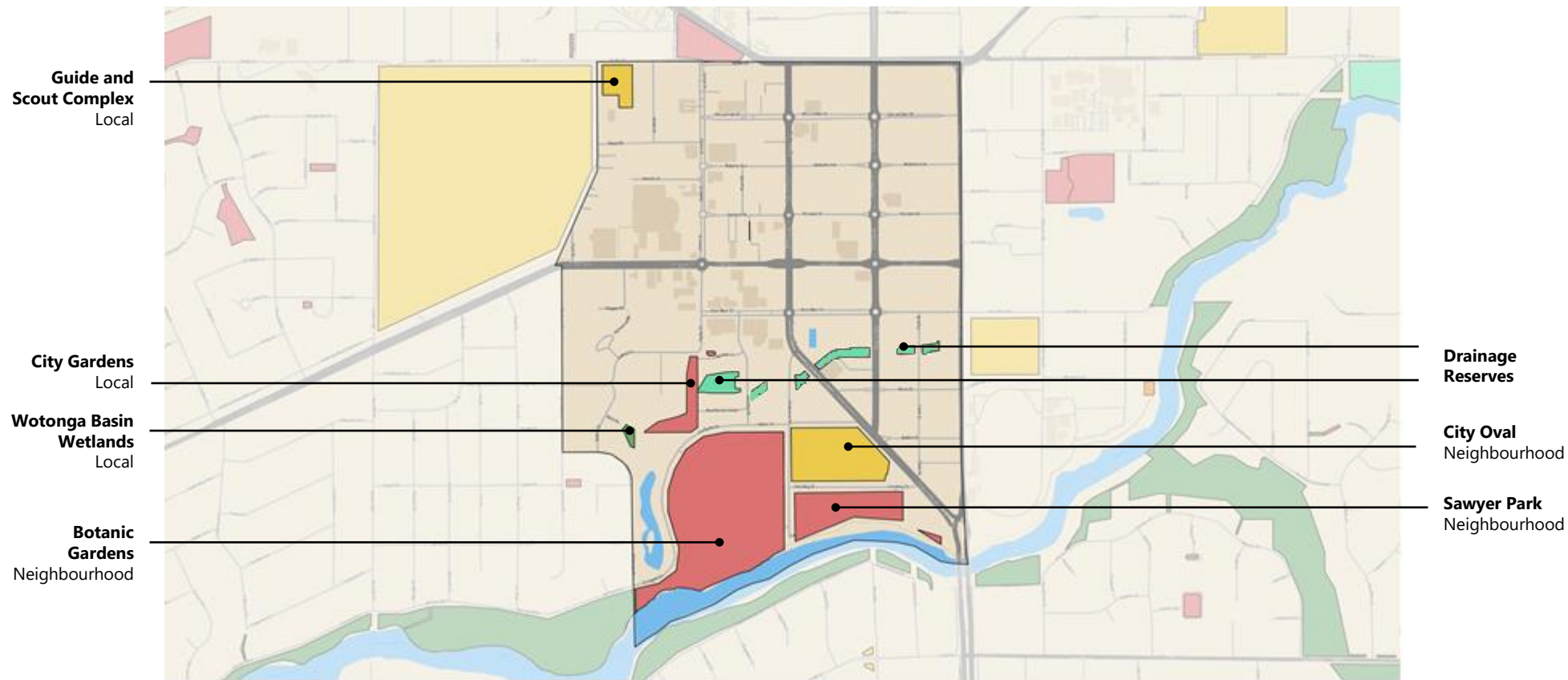
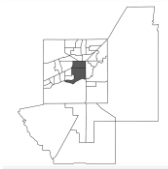
## Key Issues

- While the provision ratio of open space per 1,000 people is very high, the actual use, connectivity and access to open space in the CAD is poor. Provision of, and access to civic spaces, such as community gardens is limited in the CAD and surrounding residential grid.
- City Oval is one of Horsham's key sport and recreational assets. However it appears closed off to the general public, and it is difficult to find usage times. The River Precinct is somewhat underutilised and has the potential to be a major destination for recreational and social enjoyment. Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility would require a feasibility study to independently identify the optimal site across Horsham.

## Future Considerations

- Develop a list of iconic assets and spaces that must be strongly enhanced – or partnered with for long-term reinvestment.
- Identify and develop a series of green space pockets throughout the CAD to increase opportunities for passive recreation.
- Enhance the streetscape through public art and sculptural pieces at road reserves in Pynsent Street, Wilson Street, Hamilton Street, Darlot Street and Urquhart Street presents opportunities to enhance public open space.
- Provide opportunities for improved integration of activities in the Horsham Central Activities District with the river corridor.
- Create and formalise linkages between the CAD and river corridor as identified through the Horsham CAD revitalisation project.
- Activate areas fronting the river to attract patronage and stimulate activity around the river corridor, such as the development of riverside catering/dining venues.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.

# CENTRAL HORSHAM



## Legend

- Sports grounds
- Recreation spaces
- Natural areas
- Civic spaces
- Linkages
- Other

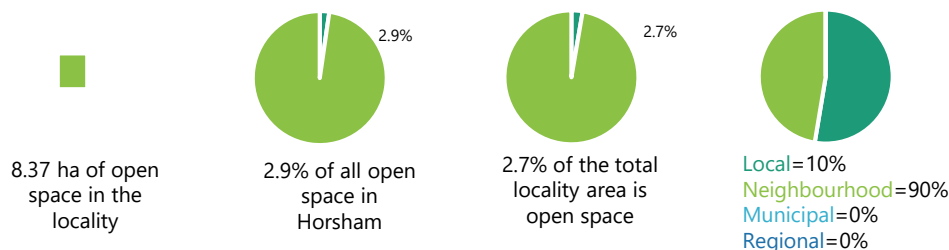
Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.



## Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham North

- The major observation is that the North of Horsham is underserved by publicly accessible and activated open space.
- Horsham North has the highest population of all localities, however provision of open space is one of the lowest, with only 2.53 hectares per 1,000 people.
- Horsham North's urban area is characterised by poor town planning outcomes, evident through the lack of a defined structure or hierarchy between places and connections.
- Dudley Cornell Park is the key open space asset in Horsham North, and is primarily used for athletics, cricket and soccer.

### Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	11	0	0	0	1
Hectares	0.00	8.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35
Proportion	0%	96%	0%	0%	0%	4%
2016 Population		2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating
3,309		3,689		2.5		Low

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

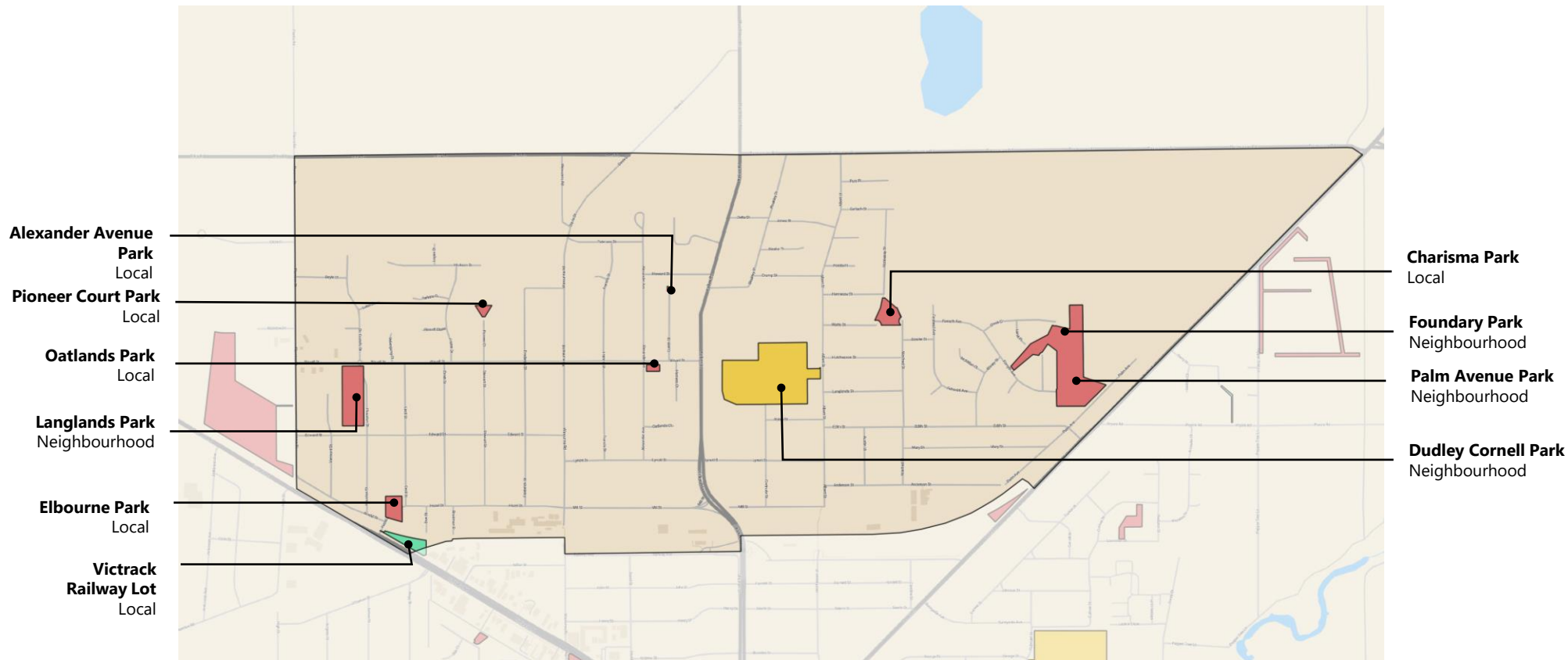
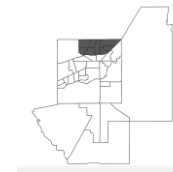
## Key Issues

- Key public open spaces in Horsham North (Dudley Cornell Park and Foundry Park) are surrounded by backyard fences, which reduce the amenity, safety and character of these spaces.
- There is poor connectivity to the centre of the town with no formalised bike or pedestrian routes. This poses a safety risk for residents and limits accessibility.
- Horsham North is isolated and separated from the rest of Horsham by the railway corridor and adjoining land, and the poor quality connections across the railway. While the Railway Corridor restricts accessibility in some cases, it has the potential to provide the East/West connectivity and alleviate the barrier between North and South Horsham.

## Future Considerations

- Activate existing open space with community amenities such as barbecues, picnic tables, public toilets at Langland's Park and Charisma Park.
- Develop pedestrian and cycle links between the Kalkee Road Children's Hub, Police Paddock and Dudley Cornell to provide connection between key open spaces in the North.
- Use Dudley Cornell Park for broader lifestyle and recreational use by local residents, with athletics relocated to another site (medium term).
- Develop initiatives to help re-integrate the urban areas on each side of the railway to change the dynamic of Horsham North.
- Investigate opportunities to redevelop the existing Horsham North Primary School site as a passive recreation space. This includes the existing North Gym, along with new walking trails, and passive open spaces.
- Create a series of "Safe Places" where residents can meet, or wait for public transport, in a safe environment. These Safe Places should be carefully designed with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles at key intersections and streets.

# HORSHAM NORTH



## Legend

- Sports grounds
- Recreation spaces
- Natural areas
- Civic spaces
- Linkages
- Other

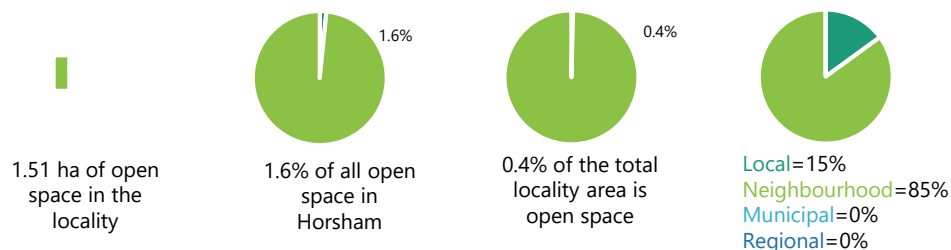
Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

# HORSHAM INNER NORTH

## Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham Inner North

- Horsham Inner North is a residential area that is bounded by the railway corridor land to the North and Baillie Street to the South.
- On the south side of the railway corridor, it does not have the same sense of separation and isolation as North Horsham, yet the railway corridor and adjoining land means there are poor quality connections to the open space network in the north of Horsham.
- May Park is the key open space asset within the locality. Birch Avenue also has a footpath reserve, which leads to an unnamed road bounded by backyard fences.

## Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	3	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	1.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2016 Population	2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating	
1,260	1,405		1.2		Low	

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

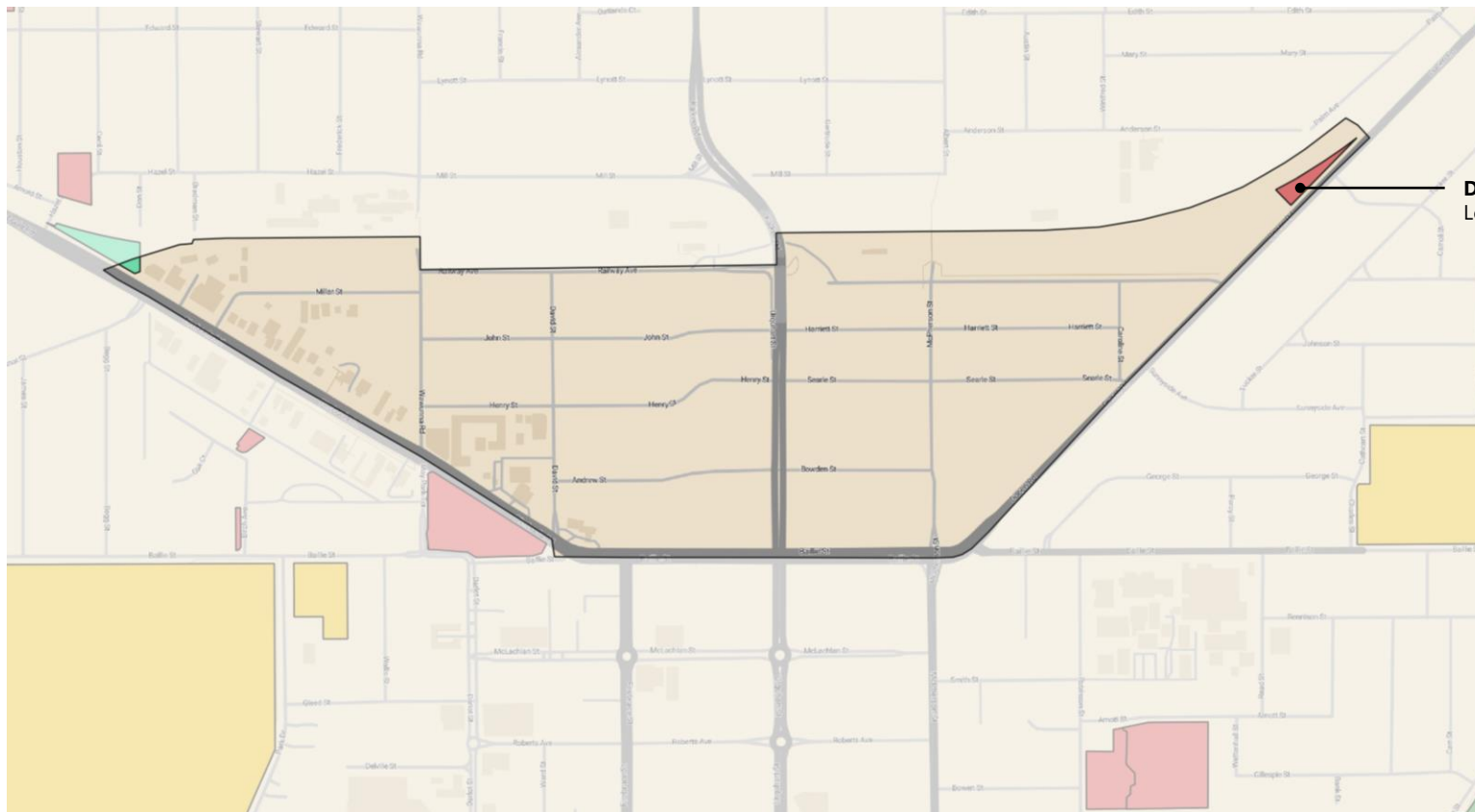
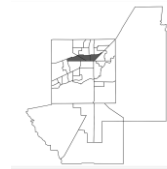
## Key Issues

- The extensive area of underutilised land within the urban area, especially close to the railway line, creates unsightly gaps in the urban fabric, and prevents any sense of cohesion, intimacy or amenity in the area.
- Lack of linkages to the existing open space network – through dedicated pedestrian and cycle routes – hinders and prevents accessibility.

## Future Considerations

- Strategically acquiring the railway corridor land will change the dynamics of the township, and this opportunity must be pursued to completion. This is assuming that environmental issues can be overcome.
- Connect public open space to the surrounding pedestrian network. Pedestrian and cycle paths that connect the river to May Park and Police Paddocks are needed to enhance connectivity and accessibility.
- As soon as practical, upgrade lighting at May Park to illuminate paths and areas for night-time use and to improve the perceived after-dark safety aspect.
- Improve existing pedestrian/cycle connections across the railway, and work with Victrack to improve underpasses between Horsham North and wider Horsham

# HORSHAM INNER NORTH



**Dooen Road Park**  
Local

## Legend

- Sports grounds
- Recreation spaces
- Natural areas
- Civic spaces
- Linkages
- Other

Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.



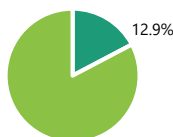
## Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham East

- Horsham East is a residential area with a number of schools in the locality including St. Brigids College, Horsham 298 Primary School and the Lutheran Primary School.
- There is good provision of open space within Horsham East, with 16% of the total area classified as open space and a provision ratio of 22.72 hectares per 1000 people.
- Key open space assets within the locality include Sunnyside Park, Coughlin Park and the Menadue Street foreshore. A key natural asset is the Burnt Creek corridor from Williams Road to the confluence with the Wimmera River.

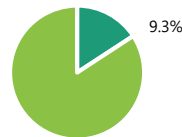
### Fast Facts:



37.01 ha of open space in the locality



12.9% of all open space in Horsham



9.3% of the total locality area is open space



Local=7%  
Neighbourhood=35%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=59%

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	4	5	0	1	0	3
Hectares	7.92	4.46	0.00	0.10	0.00	24.54
Proportion	21%	12%	0%	0%	0%	66%
2016 Population		2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating
2,766		3,084		13.4		Adequate

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

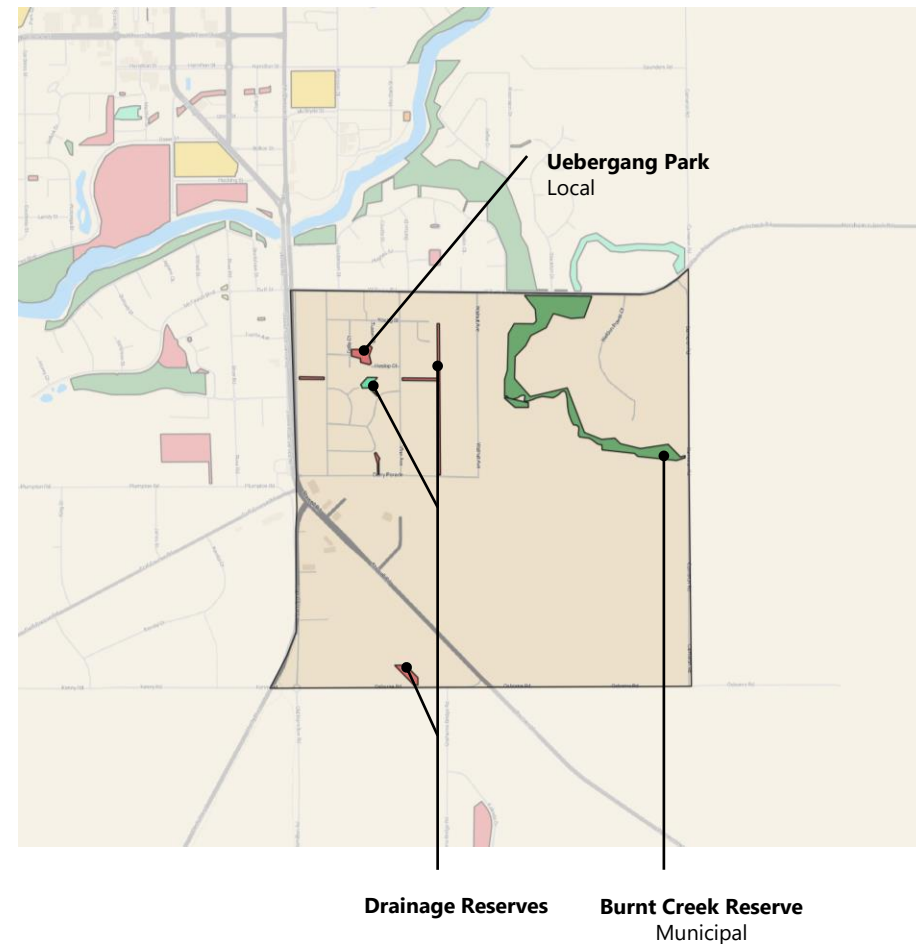
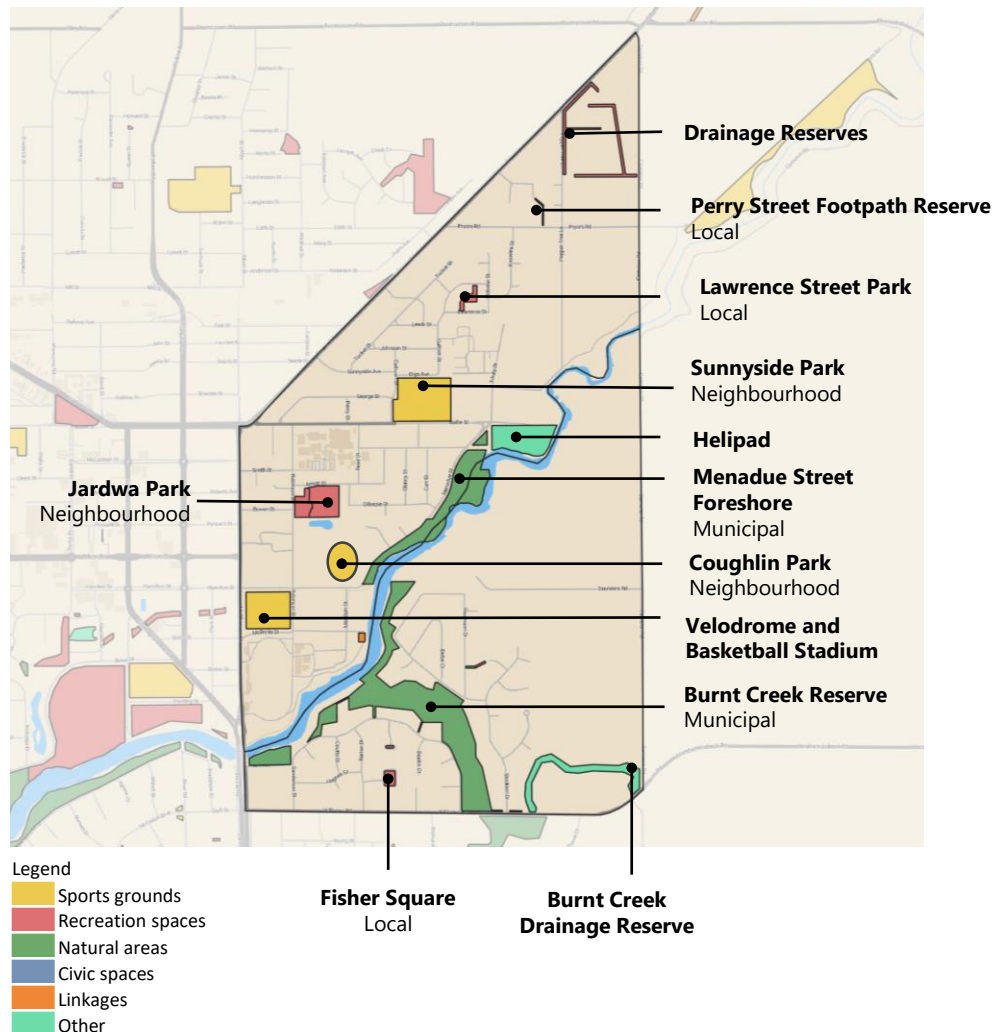
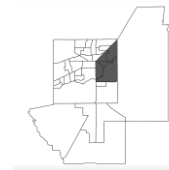
## Key Issues

- This locality is also home to the Horsham Showgrounds which houses the Horsham Greyhound track. Often described as an 'eyesore' by both visitors and the local community, this area has great potential to be opened up for better community use.
- There are a number of existing recreational paths along the river corridor, both formal and informal in nature. These do not yet form a consistent link along the corridor.
- There are no crossings towards the north eastern end of the river, and primary feedback from residents and stakeholders relates to the lack of connectivity across the river to the three local schools. The lack of dedicated pedestrian and cycle crossings is also major safety concern due to cyclists and pedestrians having to cross the highway and major roads.

## Future Considerations

- Investigate additional river crossings to provide better connectivity and enhance safety and access between the CAD and the rest of the township.
- In conjunction with the Showgrounds Committee of Management and GRV, develop a 20-year strategy for the Showgrounds. The objective should be to open up this asset to the community, whilst ensuring the greyhound racing club activities are secured for the safety of the public.
- Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility at the Horsham Showgrounds would be determined as a result of the conducting of a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site)
- Ensure all land that abuts the Wimmera River and Burnt Creek is in public ownership. Upgrade and extend the existing all-abilities shared path network in the north-eastern direction along the river corridor within the urban area. This should include installing or upgrading access and pathway infrastructure to incorporate universal design principles.

# HORSHAM EAST



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

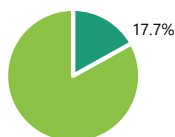
## Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham South

- While there is an adequate provision ratio of open space per 1,000 people in this locality, new housing developments in Horsham South have proceeded with inadequate consideration of open space due to the lack of an HRCC open space contributions policy.
- Fisher Square provides a vital pocket of green space within walking distance of neighbouring houses, and the Barnes Boulevard river frontage on the north bank of the river is a vital natural and open space asset.
- The Wopet Bungundilar Cultural Place is one of the most significant areas of cultural heritage in Western Victoria and is situated in the locality.

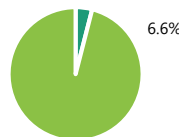
### Fast Facts:



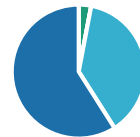
50.86 ha of open space in the locality



17.7% of all open space in Horsham



6.6% of the total locality area is open space



Local=4%  
Neighbourhood=8%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=88%

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	5	2	0	0	2
Hectares	0.00	0.71	5.53	0.00	0.00	44.62
Proportion	0%	1%	11%	0%	0%	88%
2016 Population		2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating
1,714		1,911		29.7		High

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

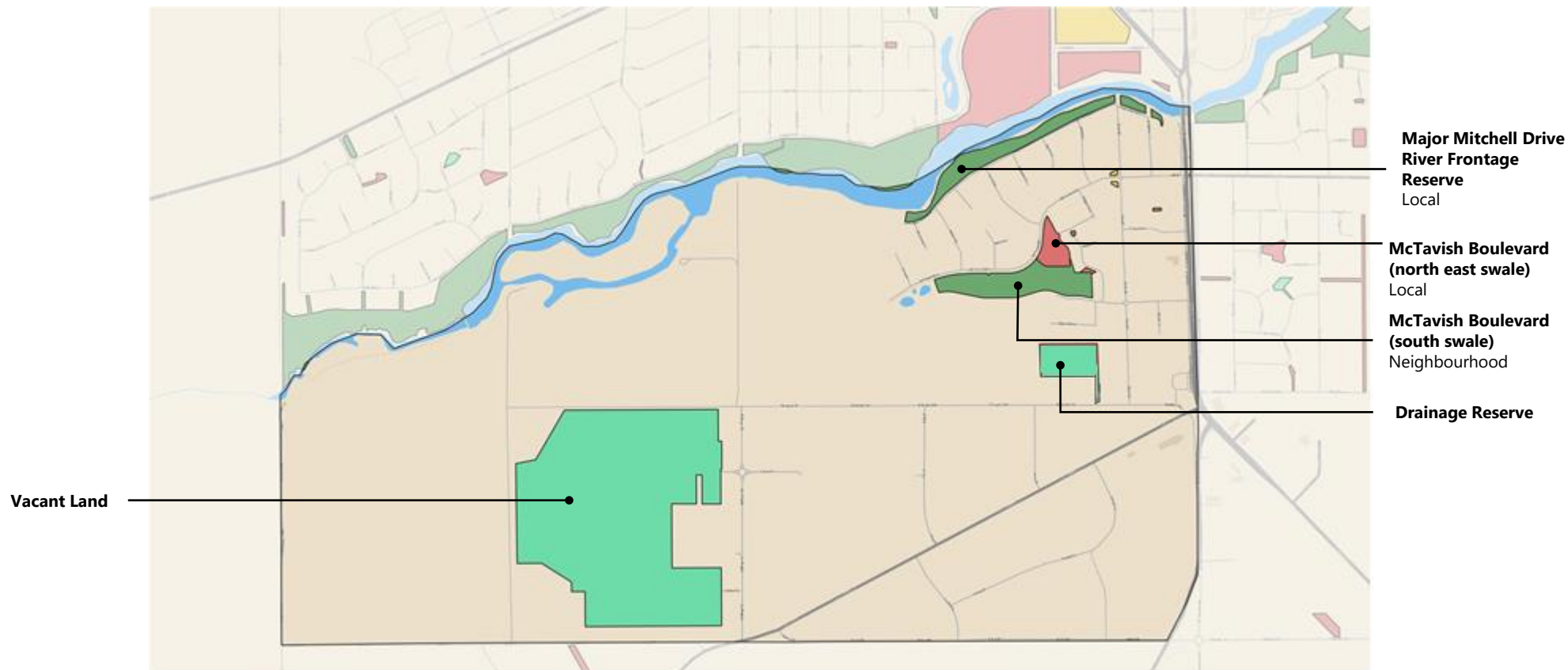
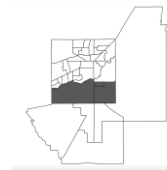
## Key Issues

- Due to previous uncoordinated planning and inadequate planning controls for South Horsham, development has occurred in an ad hoc manner, with no overarching plan to provide guidance on infrastructure or open space provision.
- Transport and infrastructure linkages and connectivity between Horsham South and Horsham's other urban areas is also poor, with one vehicle river crossing and one pedestrian/cycle bridge connection servicing the locality.

## Future Considerations

- Provide easy, continuous and universal access along both banks of the river within the wider river corridor.
- Establish new linkages across the river to better connect South Horsham with the rest of the urban area.
- Develop parklands with play areas on the south bank of the river to provide improved usage and facilities that will attract residents and activity, and take full advantage of these prime river corridor destinations.
- Provide lighting on the south side of river between pedestrian and vehicle bridges to address CPTED issues and increase evening use.
- Ensure all river access is sustainable and respectful of biodiversity, river health, Wotjobaluk and post-contact cultural heritage.
- Engage with the community, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, and other key stakeholders in determining the optimum location and design of access to the river.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.

# HORSHAM SOUTH



## Legend

- Sports grounds
- Recreation spaces
- Natural areas
- Civic spaces
- Linkages
- Other

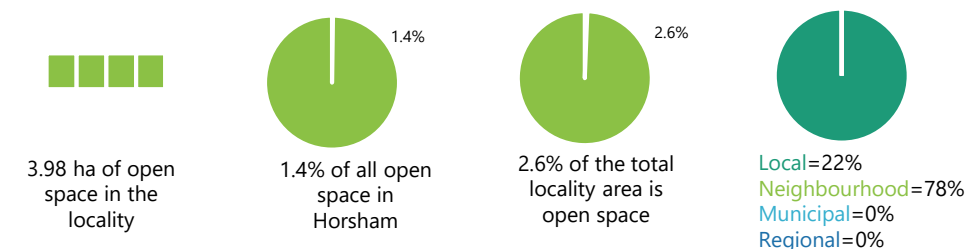
Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.



## Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham South West

- Horsham South West is a residential area in close proximity to the Horsham CAD. It has the lowest provision of open space across all localities, with a provision ration of 0.31 hectares per 1,000 people.
- Population growth across the municipality is primarily focused on Horsham West, however this will also impact the future of Horsham South West.
- Open space in the locality is characterised by drainage reserves and small pocket parks such as Drummond Park, Dawson Court Park, Windsor Court Park, Hartigan Court Park and Gardenia Street Park.

### Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	8	1	1	0	2
Hectares	0.00	2.58	0.16	1.00	0.00	0.24
Proportion	0%	65%	4%	25%	0%	6%
2016 Population	2036 Population		Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating	
2,847	3,174		1.4		Low	

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

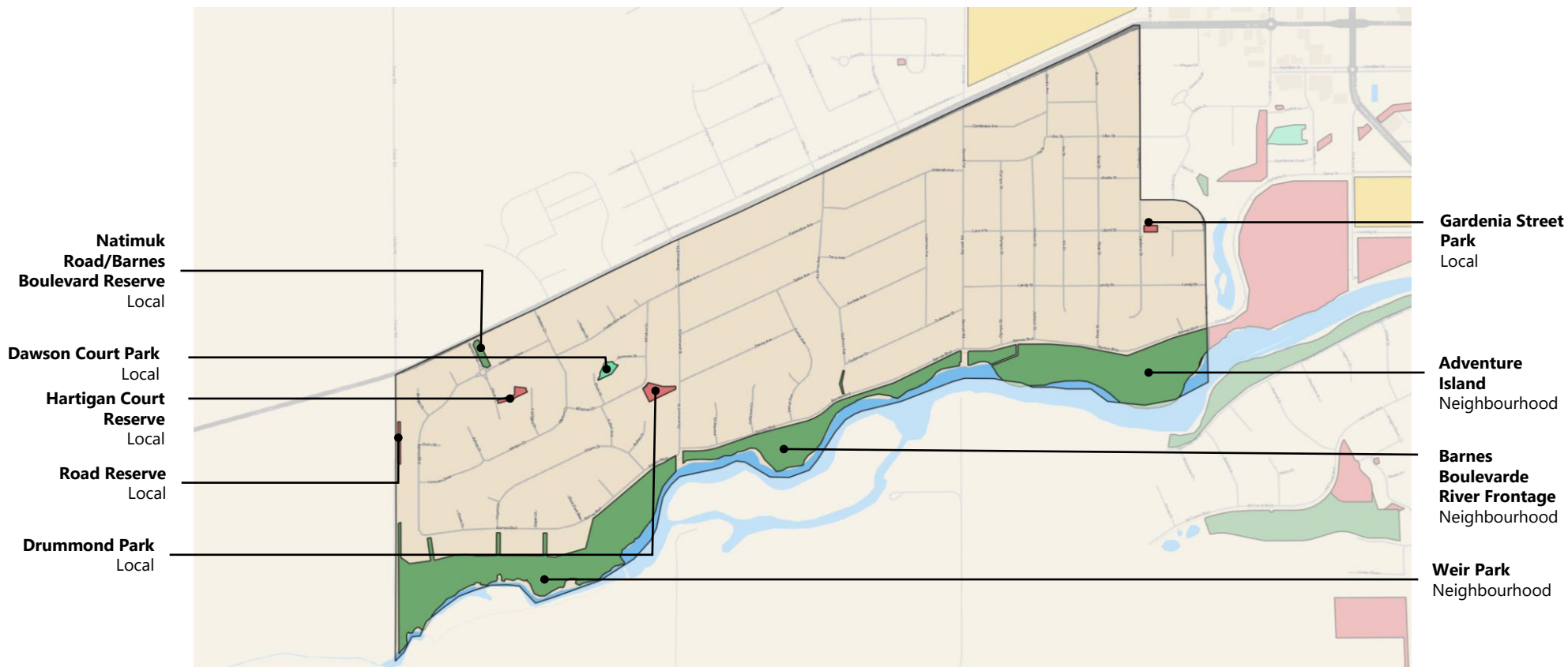
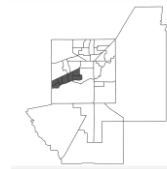
## Key Issues

- There is a distinct lack of purposeful green and open spaces in the locality, and there are poor cycling linkages to the rest of the township.
- There are no sports grounds, linkages or civic space in Horsham South West.

## Future Considerations

- In future planning, ensure that urban open space in Horsham South West provides for nature conservation, recreation and play, formal and informal sport, social interaction, opportunities to connect with nature and peace and solitude.
- Transform road reserves into purposeful spaces by selecting Indigenous planting and landscape elements that support the existing or preferred future character of the area. This will assist in enhancing usage and beautification of these spaces.
- Considering this locality borders the river, an improved bicycle network would be advantageous for the community to enhance connections to the river and the CAD. This should include identifying and developing all-abilities access locations to the corridor and the river, and upgrading access infrastructure and pathway infrastructure to incorporate universal design principles.

# HORSHAM SOUTH WEST



## Legend

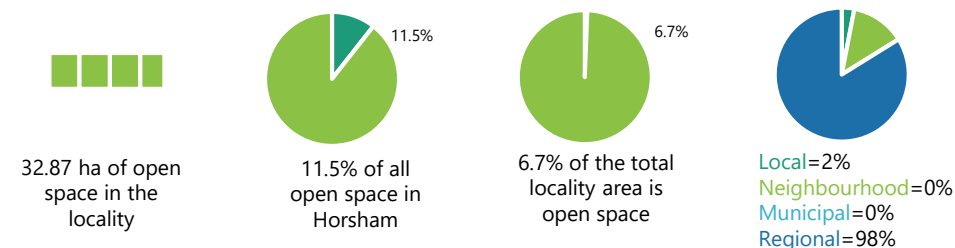
- Sports grounds
- Recreation spaces
- Natural areas
- Civic spaces
- Linkages
- Other

Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Horsham West

- Horsham West is a residential area in close proximity to the CAD, and is considered the growth area of Horsham. Similar to Horsham South West, there are a number of drainage reserves and pocket parks including Dumesny Sreet Park, Bodey Court Park and Carter Street Park.
- The major open space asset in Horsham West is the Racecourse Reserve, accounting for 84% of all open space in the locality.
- With Horsham College, Horsham West Primary School, the Special School and Federation University TAFE, this locality is home to a number of school based assets that are underutilised.

### Fast Facts:



	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	5	0	0	0	1
Hectares	32.32	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
Proportion	98%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)		Provision Rating		
1,932	2,154	17.0		Adequate		

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

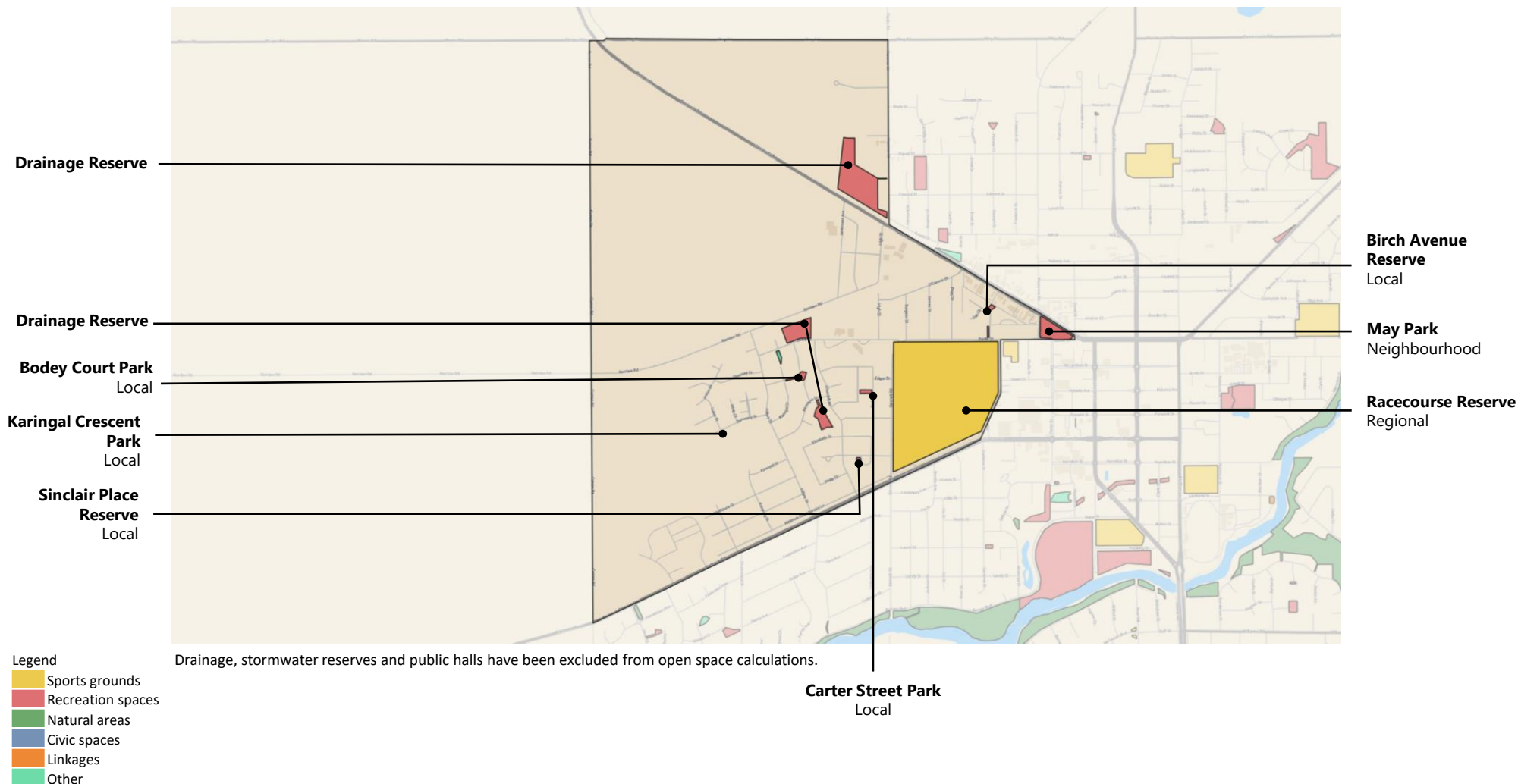
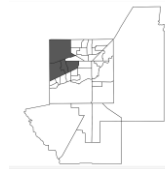
## Key Issues

- 82% of the total area of the Racecourse Reserve is encumbered space and unable to be used by the broader community. This significant area of open space is under-utilised, and could provide a key recreational asset and home to a sporting club(s) if developed to standard.
- With some forward thinking that is aligned to community needs, school-based assets could offer the community recreational and health benefits.

## Future Considerations

- In alignment with the Jenkinson Estate Staging Plan, develop Freeman Street/Arthur Drive into a single loaded street so that an open space area can be created to adjoin the pre-existing rail corridor.
- Secure a reliable water supply to the Jenkinson Estate to ensure open space is maintained in good condition.
- The strategic acquisition of the rail corridor should be a medium/long term objective for Council, as it has potential to add to the shared path network for the city, as well as play a role in adding to a regional network of off road shared paths. Any future planning for shared paths should also consider connections with the Big Sky Bicycle Trail and Wimmera River.
- Encourage the Recreation and Open Space Planning department at HRCC to identify and engage with two schools about a pilot program for community use of recreational assets i.e. ovals.
- Build a closer relationship with the Horsham Racing Club and Horsham Harness Racing Club to plan for the long-term future of the Racecourse Reserve. Consider future improvements to the 'in-field' for community sport teams, and enhance the current community footprint, in alignment with the Wimmera River and CAD Revitalisation Project.
- Transform stormwater basins into purposeful spaces by selecting Indigenous planting and landscape elements that support the character of the area.

# HORSHAM WEST





## Specific Description of Open Space in Haven

- Haven is a tight-knit and growing community, located to the South of Horsham. The region is well-served by open space with 22.23 hectares of open space per 1,000 people. The Recreation Reserve and Primary School serve as a central hub and recreation space for local residents.
- The Council Plan 2018-2022 states that one of its four year priorities is to 'facilitate ongoing development of community facilities at Haven Recreational Reserve.'

## Future Considerations

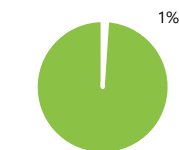
- Future planning should consider open space areas for multiple uses, such as sports and recreation, active transport routes, wildlife corridors and flood storage basins.
- A shared trail connecting Golf Course Rd to the trail adjacent to Haven Primary School would assist in providing safe active transport connection to the Horsham township.
- Additionally, Hunts Road is also a well utilised road, and a shared cycling and walking track along this route with potential to be extended would provide safe passage for the number of young families in the area.
- Future development of the Haven Recreation Reserve should consider incorporating regional standard tennis facilities, introducing walking and cycle linkages to the Horsham CAD, enhancing the natural areas and surrounds and safer entry and exit from the Henty Highway.

## Fast Facts:

19.44 ha of open space in the locality



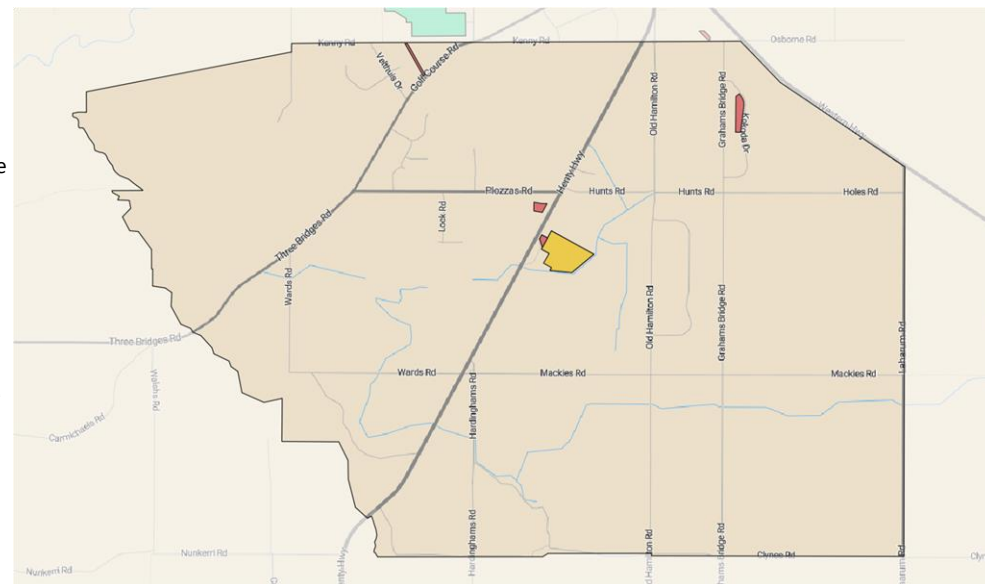
6.8% of all open space in Horsham



1% of the total locality area is open space



Local=9%  
Neighbourhood=10%  
Municipal=80%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	4	1	0	0	0
Hectares	9.91	3.81	5.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	51%	20%	29%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
1,303	1,453	14.9	Adequate

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

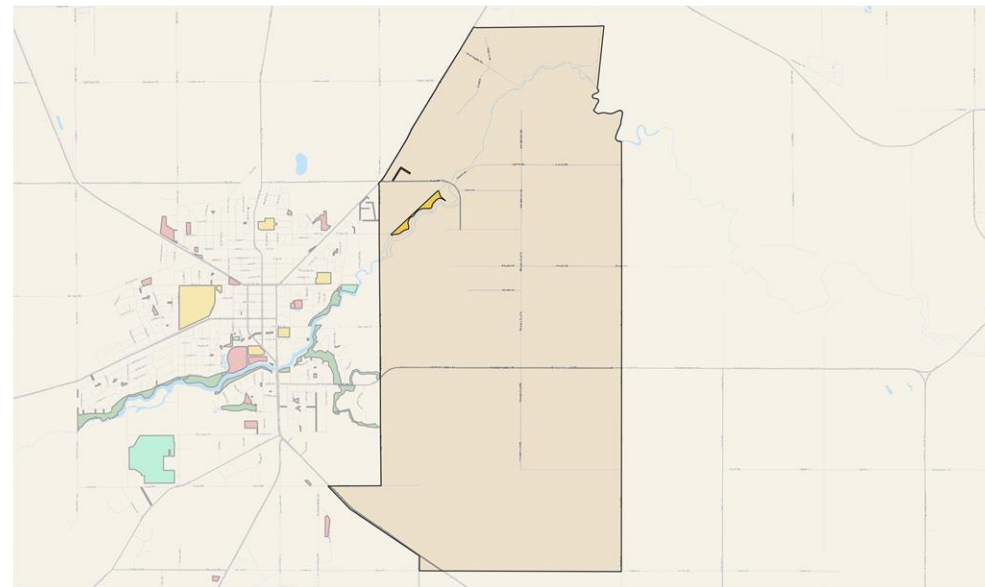
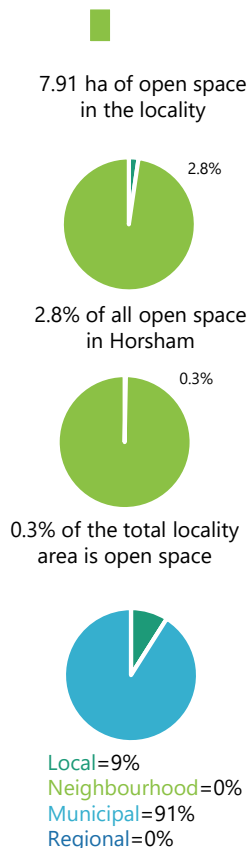
## Specific Description of Open Space in Riverside

- Riverside is on the eastern outskirts of the Horsham Township and is primarily farming and rural living.
- The major open space asset in the region is the Riverside Recreation Reserve, which is primarily used for equestrian.
- Within the region there is also the Dooen Swamp Bushland Reserve and the site of the old Dooen Weir, which has historical value, as well as being an attractive natural area on the river. This is a popular area for canoeing, BMX and mountain biking along the riverfront.

## Future Considerations

- Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor. Any planned paths must be considered in future highway developments.
- Formalise and secure easy and continuous public access for people of all abilities within the wider river corridor, including along both banks of the river. This may require the strategic acquisition of land to ensure minimum width standards for a shared path (see appendix).
- Upgrade the access track to the Dooen Weir including provision of signage, public toilets and picnic upgrades.
- Investigate a potential multi purpose mountain bike track/pump track alongside the motocross track.
- Recognise and manage any potential detrimental outcomes from increased access and use of the river corridor.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.

## Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	1	0	0
Hectares	7.18	0.00	0.00	0.73	0.00	0.00
Proportion	91%	0%	0%	9%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
418	466	18.9	Adequate

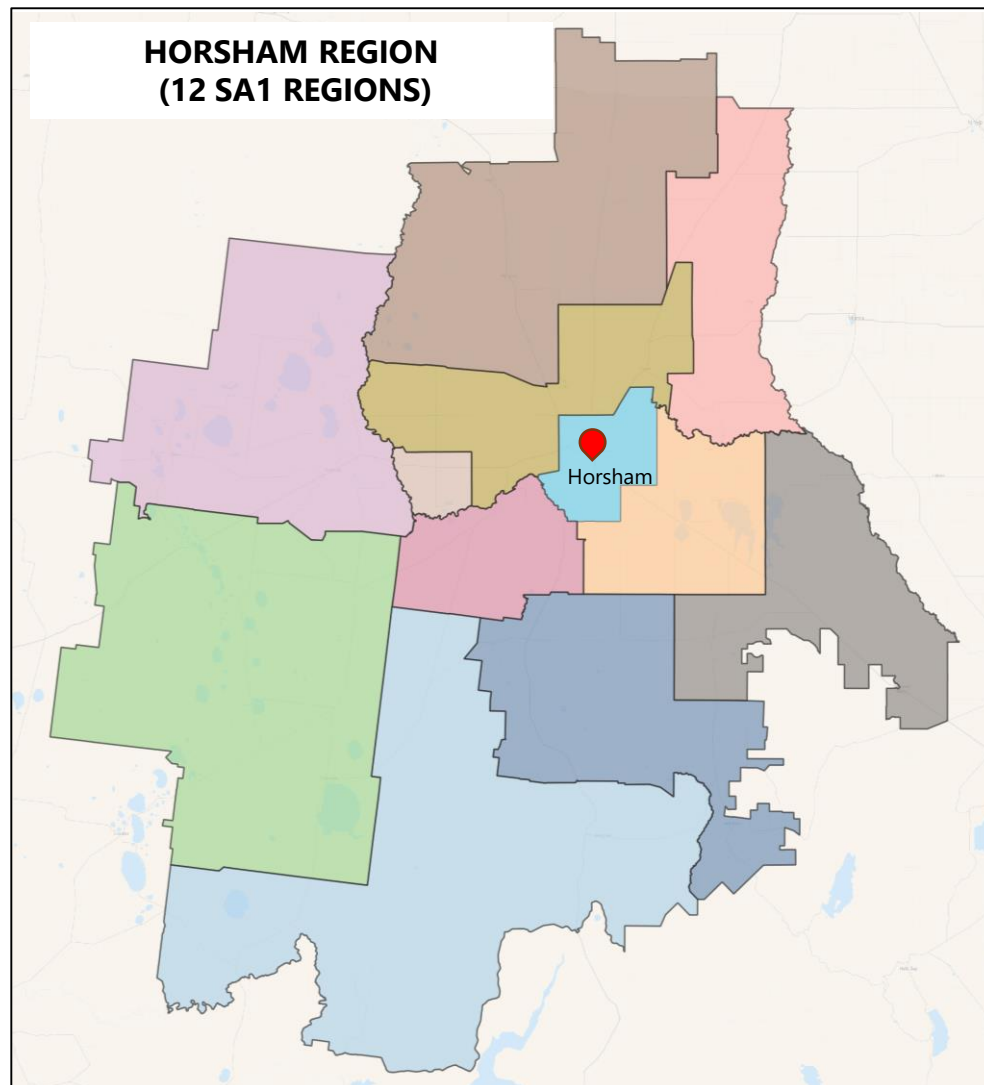
Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls



## **OUTLYING LOCALITY ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



# GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



	Open Space Locality Name	ABS SA1 Code
<b>Horsham Region</b>	Toolondo	2138901
	Brimpaen	2138902
	Wartook	2138903
	McKenzie Creek	2138904
	Drung	2138905
	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	2138906
	Natimuk	2138907
	Pimpinio and Kalkee	2138908
	Jung	2138909
	Dooen and Vectis	2138910
	Quantong	2138911
	Natimuk District	2138912
<b>Horsham Township</b>	Horsham Township	37 SA1 Regions

Outside of the Horsham Township, there are 12 SA1 regions as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). This type of analysis is used widely in strategy and planning projects. For this project, these regions have been used for the locality analysis to **ensure alignment with the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)**.

**It is important to recognise that due to the way the SA1 boundaries are structured, some townships which are grouped together by SA1 region may not practically share open space assets.**

For example, when using the SA1s, Brimpaen Telangatuk and Kanagulk are in the same region, however, Brimpaen residents are more likely to access the public open space assets in Laharum and Wartook than in Telagatuk East and Kanagulk.

For this reason, when considering catchment planning, **the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.**



Drung neighbours the Haven and Riverside localities and is located to the South East of Horsham, with a population of 247 people. Within this locality are the townships of Bungalally and Green Lake.

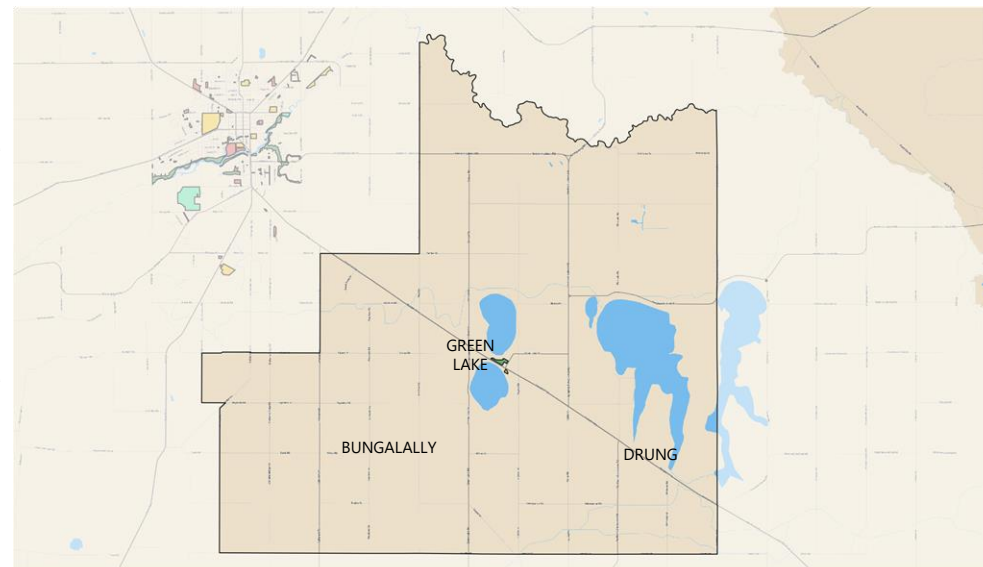
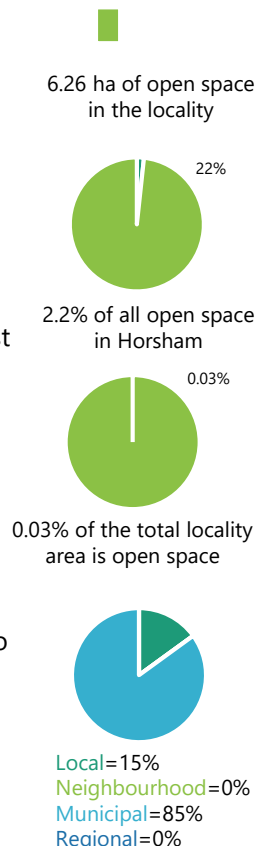
## Specific Description of Open Space in Drung

- This region is home to four of the major lakes in the municipality: Green Lake, Dock Lake, Pine Lake and Taylors Lake. While not classified as open space, these waterbodies provide significant natural and recreational value to the local community.
- From the consultations, there is often confusion amongst the local community about whether the lake will be open or closed to water activities before you arrive.

## Future Considerations

- Investigate opportunities for the development of the Green Lake/Dock Lake recreational precinct.
- Further investigate and pursue the opportunity for a walking and cycling track from Green Lake to Horsham, with the potential to circle around the lake and go out to Natimuk and Mount Arapiles to connect to the Big Sky Bicycle Trail.
- Review the HRCC website to uplift communication and community awareness of key council and community open space assets and their amenities.

### Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	1	0	0	0
Hectares	0.93	0.00	5.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	15%	0%	85%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
247	227	25.34	High

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

# DADSWELLS BRIDGE AND LAHARUM (1/2)

The Dadswells Bridge and Laharum locality is in the east of the municipality, and has a population of 214 residents.

Although these townships are grouped in the same SA1 region, it is unlikely for Laharum residents to travel to Dadswells Bridge to (or vice versa) access facilities or open space as the Grampians acts as a physical and geographical barrier between the two townships. This should be considered in future planning around communities of interest.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Dadswells Bridge

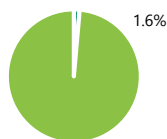
- The Mt William Creek winds its way through Dadswells Bridge providing not only a valuable water source for the town, but also an environmental and recreational feature.
- There is one community hall in the Dadswells Bridge township, and three tennis courts for recreational use.
- Dadswells Bridge should be the celebration that you have arrived in one of Victoria's most iconic areas: the Wimmera and Horsham.

## Future Considerations for Dadswells Bridge

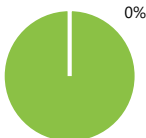
- Develop and implement a long-term revitalisation strategy for Dadswells Bridge. This will require a staged approach – and there must be a story about its significance and history to the region.
- Invest in a major town entrance sign/feature at Dadswells Bridge celebrating that you have arrived in one of Victoria's most iconic areas: the Wimmera and Horsham.

### Fast Facts:

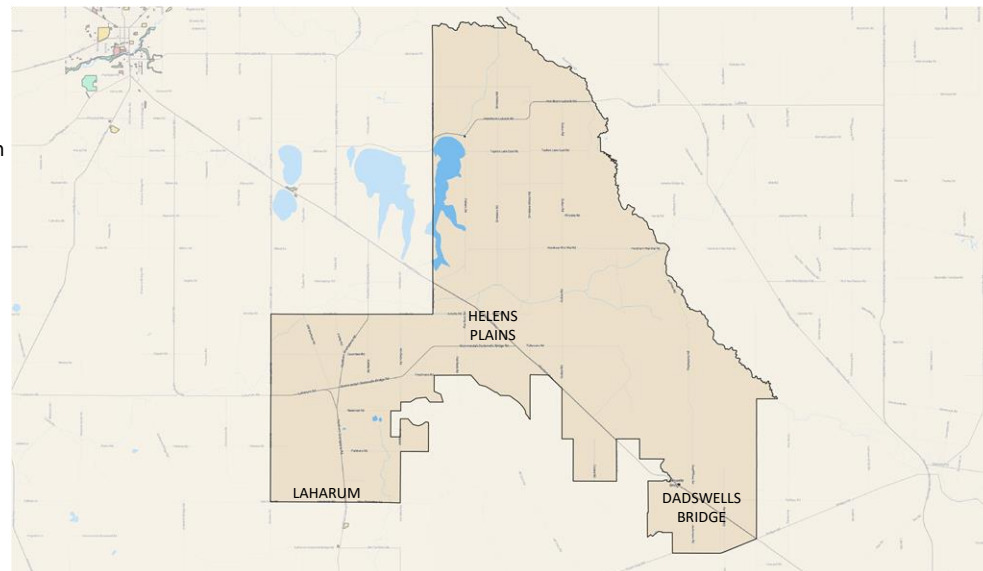
4.5 ha of open space in the locality



1.6% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
214	196	21.0	High

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

# DADSWELLS BRIDGE AND LAHARUM (2/2)

While the Laharum and Dadswells Bridge townships are situated within the same SA1 region, public open space in Laharum will also be accessed by residents from Brimpaen, Wartook and Wonwondah.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Laharum

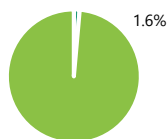
- Existing open space and sport and recreation facilities in Laharum are the Laharum Community Hall, Laharum Primary School and Kindergarten and Cameron Oval.
- Cameron Oval is in good condition and is used regularly for football and cricket matches as well as school and interschool sports days.

## Future Considerations for Laharum

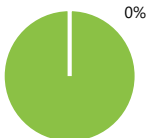
- In line with the priorities from the Council Plan 2018-2022, continue the ongoing development of community facilities at Cameron Oval.
- Formalise and improve the surface of the trail that connects Cameron Oval to the Laharum Hall and Primary School site.
- Investigate opportunities to upgrade the landscaping at Cameron Oval with tree plantings, a community garden and picnic/BBQ facilities to enhance community use.
- Consider the removal of the old tennis court between the school and the Laharum Hall.
- Engage with the Department of Education and Training about opportunities to acquire block of land on the northern boundary of Cameron Oval for the community. This block could be used for overflow and emergency parking around Cameron Oval.

### Fast Facts:

4.5 ha of open space in the locality



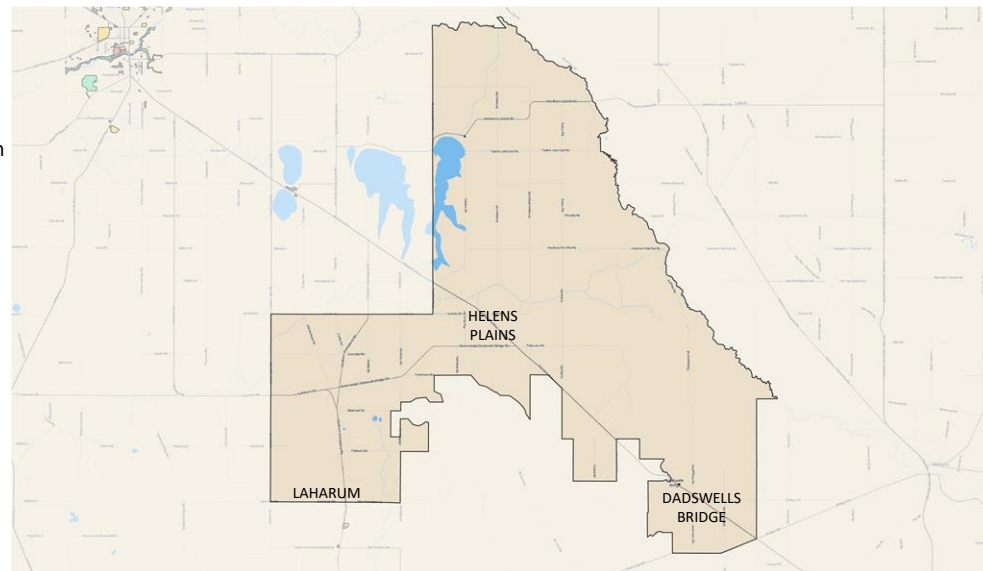
1.6% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=0%  
Neighbourhood=100%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
214	196	21.0	High

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Wartook is in the south of the municipality and comprises the townships of Wartook and Wonwondah. Wartook is the gateway to the Grampians National Park, and 1,604 hectares of the National Park is within the SA1 border.

Wartook neighbours Laharum, and the facilities at Cameron Oval and the Laharum Hall are likely to also be used by Wartook and Wonwondah residents.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Wartook

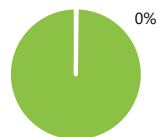
- The Wartook area has at least three Aboriginal art sites and is an important part of Victoria's Aboriginal heritage.

## Future Considerations

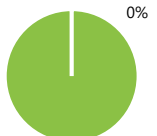
- Develop improved cycling and walking trails in the Wartook area to provide a better visitor experience and more recreational opportunities for residents.
- Support connections to the Grampians Peak Trail and Wartook to Zumsteins walking and cycling trail at an appropriate location.
- Identify and protect areas containing significant flora and fauna, in particular the listed threatened and rare species which exist within the area.
- Ensure the long history of indigenous culture is valued in any future planning applications or development.
- Encourage the provision of appropriately located picnic areas, toilets, bins, visitor information, tourist routes and viewpoints, particularly to the north and western fringe of the Grampians.

### Fast Facts:

0 ha of open space in the locality



0% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=100%  
Neighbourhood=0%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
310	285	-	Low

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls



Brimpaen is an outlying region to the South of Horsham. It has one of the smallest populations of all the localities, with only 217 people in 2016. Within this locality are the townships of Brimpaen, Telangatuk, Kanagulk and Nurrabel.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Brimpaen

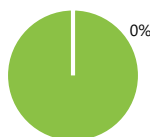
- The Brimpaen Hall, Talangatuk Hall and Kanagulk Hall provide civic spaces for the local community in this region and there is a tennis court surrounding the Telangatuk Hall which serves as public open space.
- The Black Range State Park is managed by Parks Victoria and protects significant environmental and cultural values including rock shelter, rock art, quarries and scar trees. The park also provides a range of recreation opportunities.

## Future Considerations

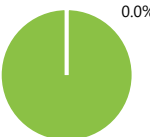
- The Black Ranges creates a physical divide between Brimpaen and the other townships in the region. Therefore, any future catchment planning should consider that community members in Brimpaen are more likely to access public open space and sport and recreation facilities in Laharum, Wartook and Wonwondah than Telangatuk and Kanagulk.
- Collaborate with Parks Victoria on the development of the new Grampians Gariwerd Management Plan (that includes the Black Range) to clarify appropriate and sustainable recreation activities for the park.
- Ensure that every major asset and/or place has visual and written recognition of the traditional Indigenous landowners. A separate piece of work will be required to accelerate this around the Reconciliation Action Plan.

### Fast Facts:

0.03 ha of open space in the locality



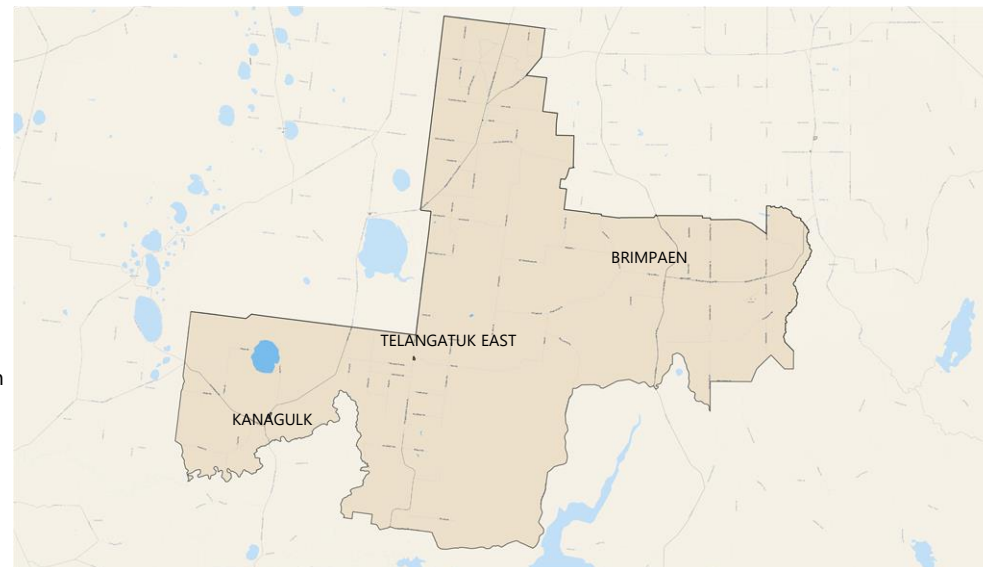
0% of all open space in Horsham



0.0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=100%  
Neighbourhood=0%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
217	199	0.1	Low

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Toolondo is in the south west of the municipality and is the largest region by area, at 763 square kilometres. The region comprises the townships of Toolondo, Clear Lake, Noradjuha, Tooan and Jilpanger.

As Toolondo shares a border with Telangatuk East and Kanagulk, it is likely that public open space in Toolondo will also be used by residents from these townships as well.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Toolondo

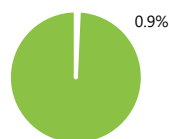
- The locality has a number of outstanding lakes and wetlands that are key natural assets for the community.
- Key community spaces include the Toolondo Recreation Reserve, Noradjuha Recreation Reserve and Noradjuha Memorial Hall.
- While Toolondo is the biggest region by size, approximately 10% of the total area is parkland managed by Parks Victoria. This includes the Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park, Jilpanger Nature Conservation Reserve, Jacka Lake Wildlife Reserve, Jallumba Wildlife Reserve, Lake Carchap Wildlife Reserve, Red Gum Swamp Wildlife Reserve, and the Tooan Bushland Reserve.

## Future Considerations

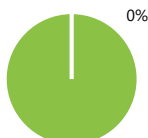
- Work with Parks Victoria to ensure appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities that protect the environmental and cultural values of the parks and reserves managed by Parks Victoria.
- When considering future upgrades to recreation reserves, focus on enhancing community use through urban and landscape design.

### Fast Facts:

2.44 ha of open space in the locality



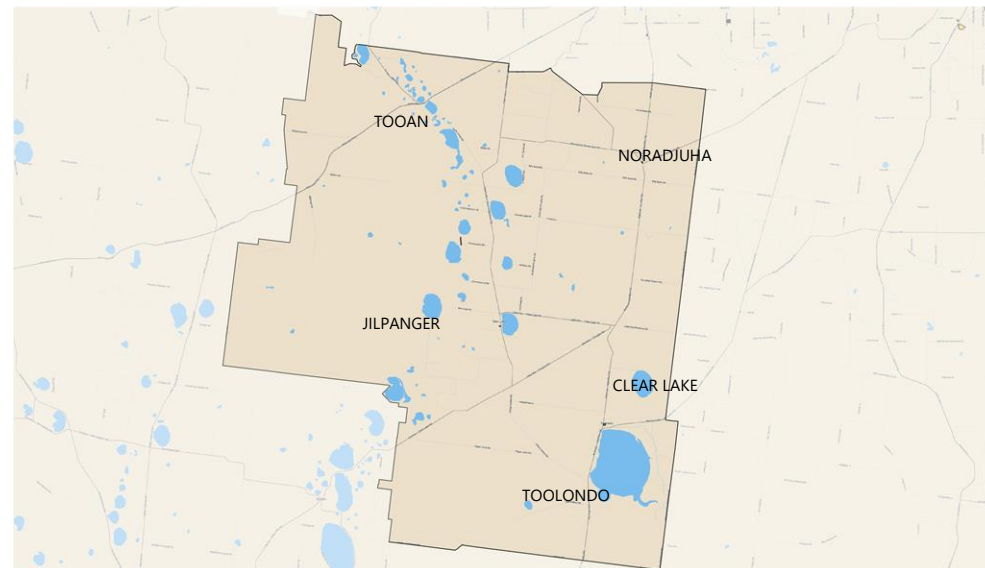
0.9% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=8%  
Neighbourhood=92%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	0	0	0	0	2
Hectares	1.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23
Proportion	50%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
241	221	10.1	Adequate

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

# NATIMUK AND DISTRICT (1/2)

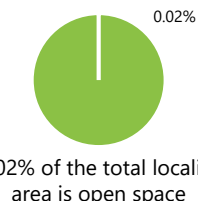
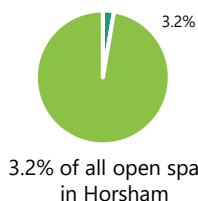
The Natimuk and District region includes the townships of Natimuk, Grass Flat, and Mitre. The region is located to the west of the Horsham township and has a population of 611 people.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Natimuk and District

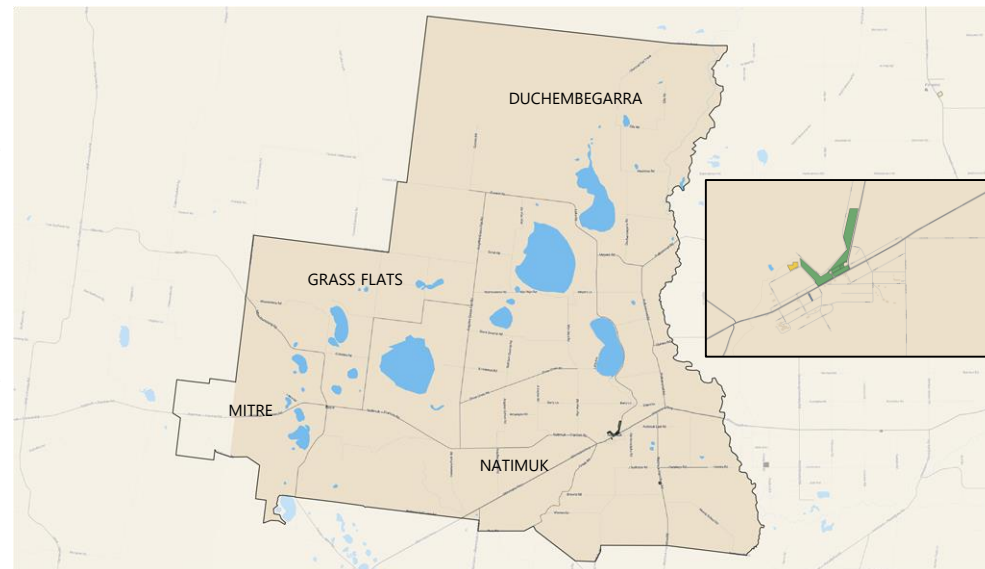
- The region has a high provision of open space, with a mix of sports grounds, recreation spaces and natural areas. The Natimuk Showgrounds precinct is in good condition and offers a range of sports including cricket, football, netball and tennis.
- Managed by Parks Victoria, Natimuk Lake protects nationally important environmental values and cultural sites. The lake naturally cycles through periods of being dry and periods of being full. Changing the natural hydrology is listed as the key threat to the natural values.
- When full, Lake Natimuk provides a range of water related recreation opportunities including boating, fishing, nature study, duck hunting and water skiing.
- Natimuk is the gateway to Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park, co-managed by Parks Victoria and BGLC. The park protects significant environmental and cultural values, and is an internationally significant rock climbing destination. The area is very important to Traditional Owners.
- The local community also have a strong socio-cultural connection to the park – there are over 30 licensed tour operators working at the park, over 50 school groups visit the park annually, and there are numerous police, military, fire and rescue groups who conduct training within the park.

### Fast Facts:

9.09 ha of open space in the locality



Local=14%  
Neighbourhood=86%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	1	2	0	0	1
Hectares	0.00	0.85	7.85	0.00	0.00	0.41
Proportion	0%	9%	86%	0%	0%	4%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
611	561	14.9	Adequate

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls



# NATIMUK AND DISTRICT (2/2)

## Future Considerations

- Position Natimuk (and Horsham more broadly) as the gateway to this internationally important rock climbing destination.
- Support the land managers, Parks Victoria, and co-managers, BGLC in their role of ensuring the protection of environmental and cultural values of the Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park.
- Assist Parks Victoria in maintaining the unique nature-based social camping experience at Mount Arapiles, through appropriate and careful investment with complimentary commercial accommodation offered in Natimuk and Horsham.
- Raise awareness of the cultural values of the Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park, whilst promoting appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities along with indigenous tourism opportunities.
- Work with Parks Victoria to educate the community that Natimuk Lake is a nationally listed important wetland that naturally dries and re-fills. Having it permanently full would be detrimental to the nationally important environmental values.
- Where appropriate, assist Parks Victoria in ensuring appropriate recreation opportunities for the lake whilst protecting the environmental and cultural values.



Above: Mount Arapiles (source: Parks Victoria). Below: Lake Natimuk (source: Grampians Point)





# MCKENZIE CREEK

## Specific Description of Open Space in McKenzie Creek

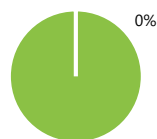
- The McKenzie Creek region is located to the South West of the Horsham Township, and comprises the townships of McKenzie Creek, Lower Norton and Wonwondah. The region has a total population of 371 people.
- There is no Council owned or managed open space in the region.
- The John Smith Memorial Reserve, managed by Parks Victoria provides a key natural area within the region.

## Future Considerations

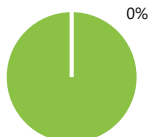
- Given low current and forecasted population, when planning for future open space in the McKenzie Creek region, consider the enhancement of natural areas for recreational use such as public amenities, visitor information and walking trails.

## Fast Facts:

0 ha of open space in the locality



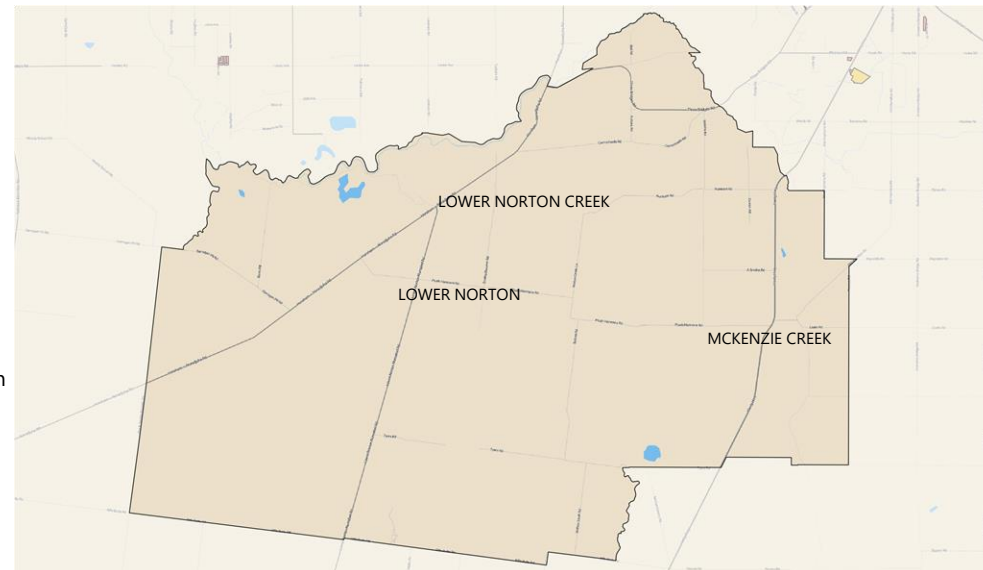
0% of all open space in Horsham



0% of the total locality area is open space



Local=0%  
Neighbourhood=0%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
371	341	0.00	Low

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

Quantong is to the West of the Horsham township and includes the townships of Quantong and Lower Norton Creek. Most of the land in this locality is zoned as rural living or rural land use. It has a total population of 311 people.

Quantong borders Vectis to the north, and and the Quantong Recreation Reserve also provides important access to public open space for residents from Vectis.

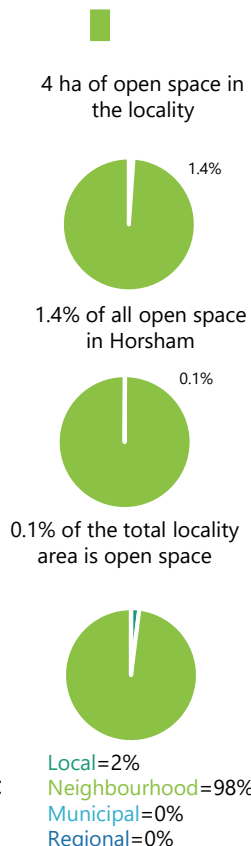
## Specific Description of Open Space in Quantong

- Quantong has a public hall and a recreation reserve. The Quantong Recreation Reserve provides critical access to open space in the region.
- The Wimmera River frontage, co-managed by DELWP and BGLC, and is very significant to Traditional Owners. There are numerous cultural sites along the river frontage and significant environmental values.

## Future Considerations

- Support DELWP and BGLC as land managers of the Wimmera River to improve the protection of the cultural and environmental values of the river that are in poor condition due to impacts of inappropriate recreation activities – especially four wheel driving.
- Strategically acquire land along the river to ensure public open space access to existing natural assets and waterways.
- Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.
- Consider flood data when resolving any future developments in the area.

### Fast Facts:



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.07	3.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	2%	98%	0%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
311	285	12.9	Adequate

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

# VECTIS AND DOOEN

The Vectis and Dooen locality is a large region spanning over 25,000 hectares to the north and west of the Horsham Township. The locality includes the townships of Dooen, Vectis, and Lower Norton Creek as well as other farming, rural living, and conservation areas.

Given the large area of the region, residents from Vectis are more likely to use public open space and sport and recreation facilities in Quantong.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Vectis and Dooen

- Due to Rasmussen Road forming the southern boundary of this locality, Police Paddock Reserve falls within this locality. This is the major open space asset in the region, yet is an underappreciated and underutilised asset which has great potential but needs additional investment to enhance usage.
- The locality lacks clear bike lane linkages and needs to cater for a wider base of user groups. There is great potential here to connect Police Paddock (and North Horsham) to the river.

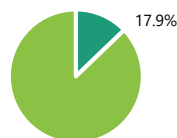
## Future Considerations

- Investigate the rail corridor that extends to the west of the locality towards Natimuk to develop a shared walking and cycling path with the potential to connect to the Big Sky Bicycle Trail at Natimuk.
- Encourage linkages to the existing public open space network from Police Paddock.
- Provide way-finding signage, more shaded seating, picnic tables, rubbish bins and formal parking to enhance the amenity of the Police Paddock.

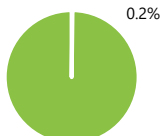
### Fast Facts:



51.30 ha of open space in the locality



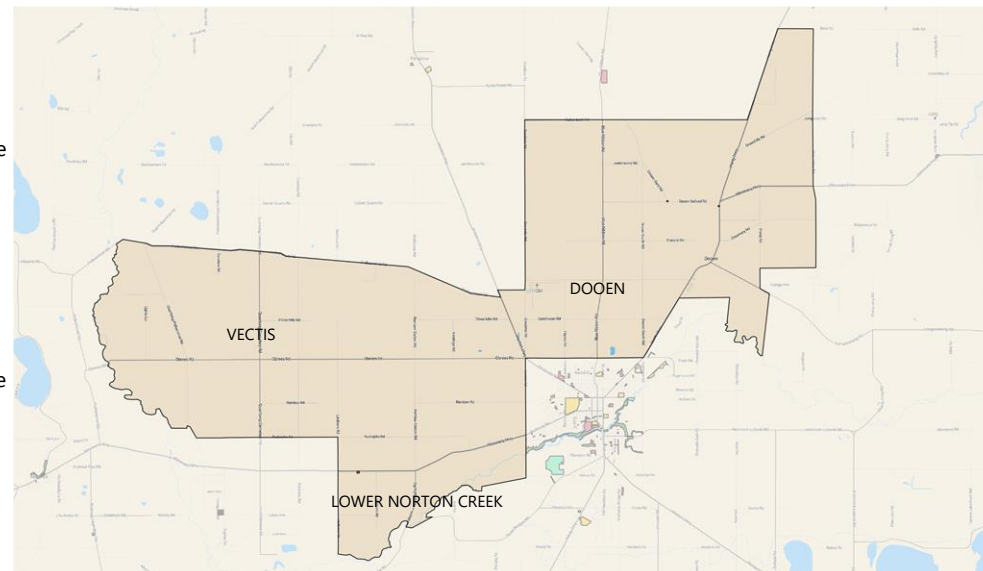
17.9% of all open space in Horsham



0.2% of the total locality area is open space



Local=0%  
Neighbourhood=0%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=100%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	0	1	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.23	51.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
297	273	172.7	Very High

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls

# PIMPINIO AND KALKEE

This is the northern-most region in the Horsham municipality, and includes the townships of Pimpinio, Kalkee, Wail, Murra Warra and Blackheath. Most of the land is zoned for rural living and rural land uses. It is one of the largest regions by size, covering 554 square kilometres, and has a population of 337 people.

## Specific Description of Open Space in Pimpinio and Kalkee

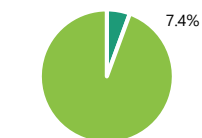
- The Pimpinio Sports and Community Centre, and the Kalkee Recreation Reserve are both high quality recreational facilities, and provide important access to active open space.
- To the western border of the region is the Wail State Forest and the West Wail Flora and Fauna Reserve managed by Parks Victoria.
- There are numerous cultural heritage sites along the Wimmera River, and Parks Victoria and BGLC co-manage the Wimmera River Heritage Area Park that starts at Polkemmet Bridge and runs North to Wirrengen Plain.

## Future Considerations

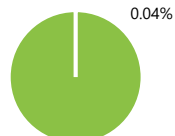
- Maintain the quality of the Pimpinio Sports and Community Centre and the Kalkee Recreation Reserve as these are key open space assets in the region.
- Raise awareness of numerous cultural heritage sites along the Wimmera River and assist in protecting them from impacts of inappropriate recreation (e.g. 4WD).
- Support land managers, Parks Victoria, and co-managers BGLC in ensuring environmental and cultural values are protected whilst providing for appropriate and sustainable recreation opportunities.

### Fast Facts:

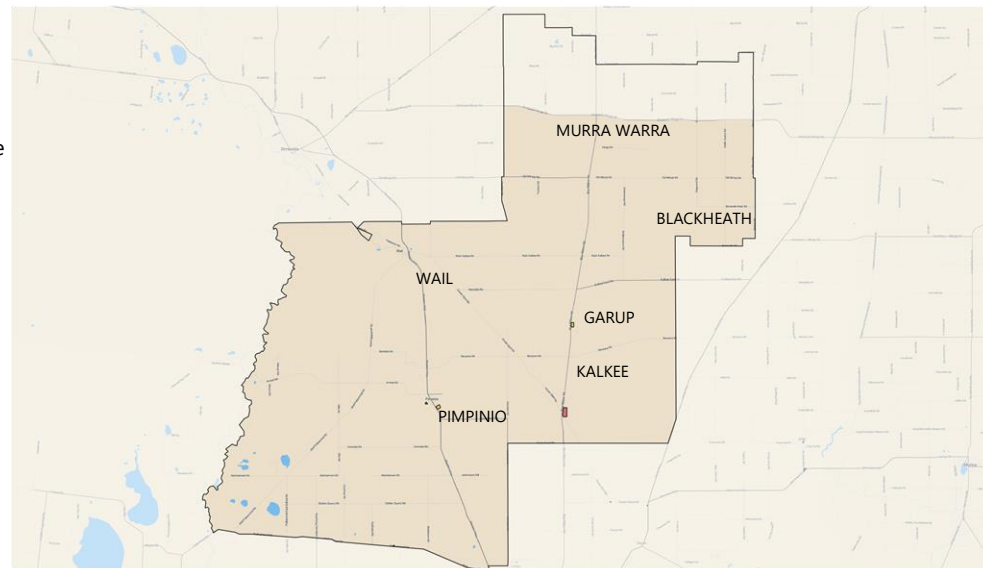
21.16 ha of open space in the locality



7.4% of all open space in Horsham



0.04% of the total locality area is open space



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	3	1	1	0	0	0
Hectares	8.11	0.97	12.08	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	38%	5%	57%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
337	307	62.8	Very High

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls



## Specific Description of Open Space in Jung

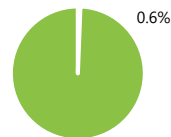
- Jung is located to the North East of the Horsham Township, with a population of 240 people. Outside of the Horsham Township, Jung has the highest proportion of young people (aged 12 to 24 years), comprising 23% of the population.
- Open spaces within the region include Peppertree Park and the Jung Nature Reserve. These provide important access points to public open space.
- Within the region there are also two reserves managed by Parks Victoria – the Darlot Swamp Bushland Reserve and the Longerenong Bushland Reserve.

## Future Considerations

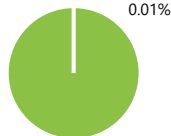
- Continue to maintain the Jung Peppertree Park, and upgrade the play space to ensure that it meets the play space development standards for a neighbourhood play space.
- When upgrading the play space at Peppertree Park investigate options which cater for children aged over 10 years, such as skate parks to cater for the high proportion of young people in the region.

### Fast Facts:

1.79 ha of open space in the locality



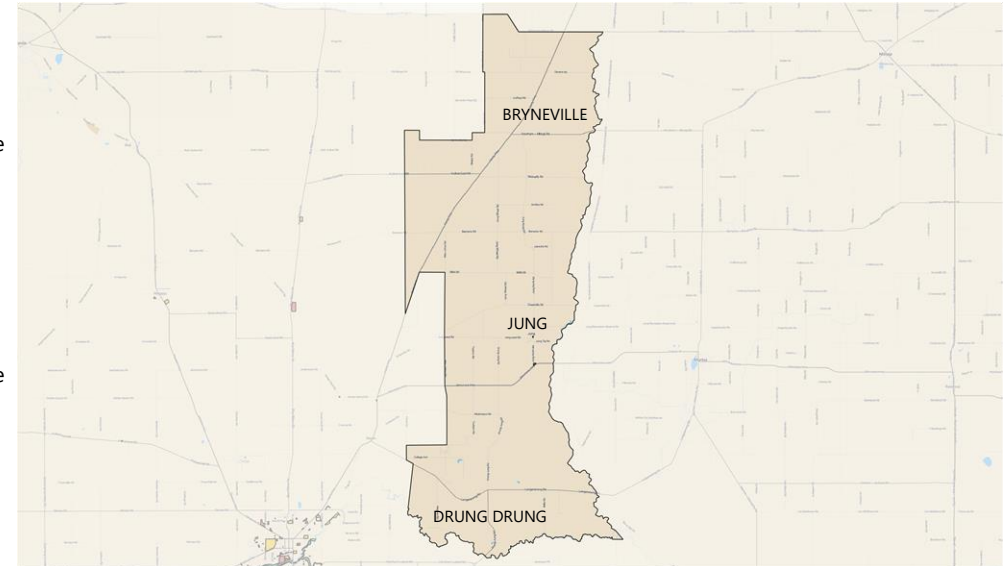
0.6% of all open space in Horsham



0.01% of the total locality area is open space



Local=38%  
Neighbourhood=62%  
Municipal=0%  
Regional=0%



Drainage, stormwater reserves and public halls have been excluded from open space calculations.

	Sports grounds	Recreation spaces	Natural areas	Linkages	Civic Spaces	Other
Number	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hectares	0.00	0.68	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
Proportion	0%	38%	62%	0%	0%	0%

2016 Population	2036 Population	Provision (ha/1000)	Provision Rating
240	220	7.5	Adequate

**Note:** Townships have been grouped into localities based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) SA1 regions. When considering catchment planning, the recommendations for the outlying localities should be viewed holistically, rather than on a locality by locality basis.

Excludes drainage and stormwater reserves and public halls



## PLAY SPACES IN HORSHAM

# CURRENT SITUATION

The Horsham Rural City Council currently maintains 24 play spaces. In comparison with other regional Councils, Horsham has a good proportion of play spaces for its population, with one play space for every 853 residents.

Each Council owned or managed play space within the municipality has been assessed to determine the provision and quality of play spaces across Horsham. The assessment included a review of the Open Space Asset Audit data, checking each play space against aerial photography images and also undertaking a number of site inspections at a sample of play spaces.

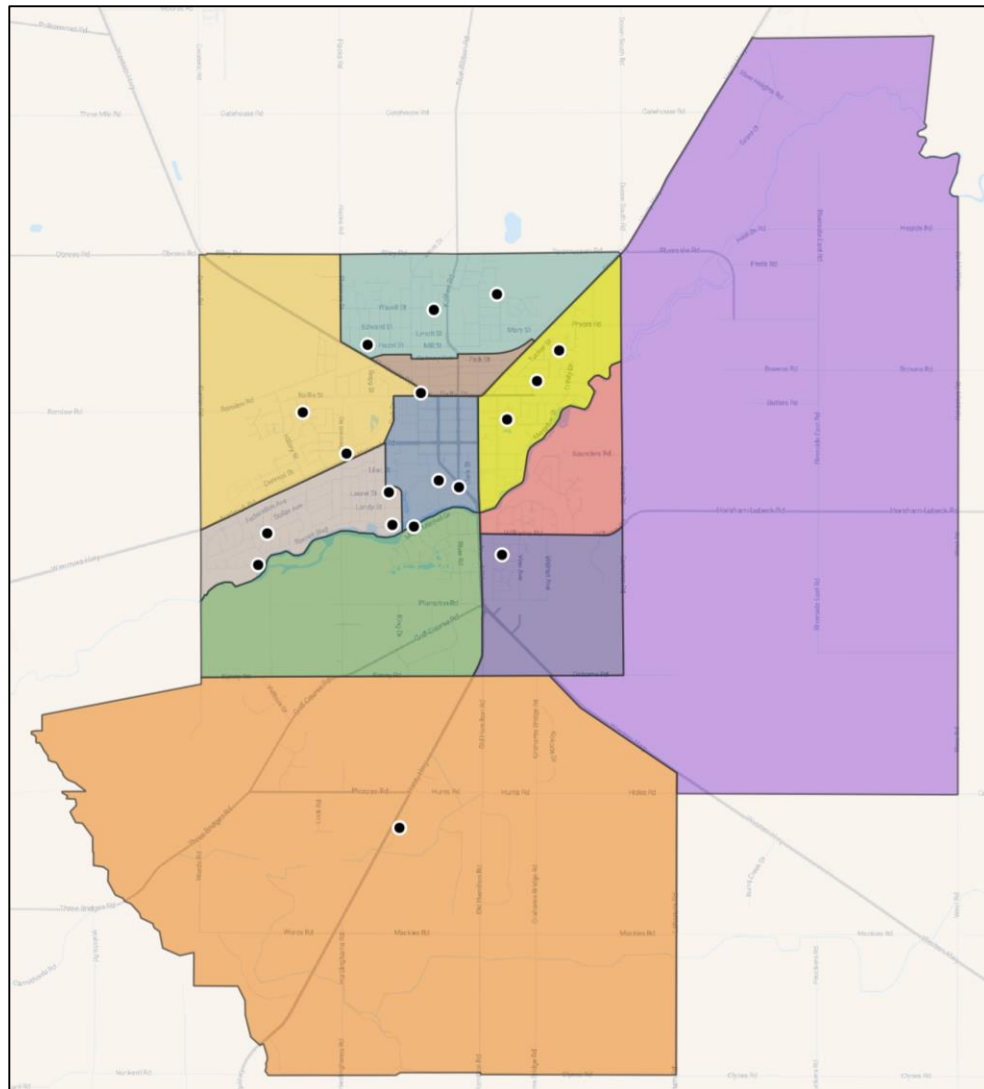
Based on this assessment, the following observations were made:

- The play equipment in some local play spaces is quite outdated and in need of replacement or upgrading.
- Not many play spaces, particularly local and neighbourhood play spaces have paths leading to seats and play equipment. This does not provide adequate access for people with disabilities or mobility issues.
- More shade structures are required in play spaces overall.
- Some local and neighbourhood play spaces lack landscaping and amenities and could be vastly improved with modest effort and expenditure.
- Most of the play spaces in the municipality cater for children aged between 2 and 10 years of age, with less provision of play spaces for children aged over 10.
- All future redevelopment and new development should be designed by a landscape architect to avoid 'ad hoc' or inexperienced planning towards creating quality spaces with universal access.

PLAY SPACE PROVISION BENCHMARKS		
	Local Government Area	Play Space Provision Ratio
Regional	Ararat	1:560
	Ballarat	1:666
	Baw Baw	1:616
	Campaspe	1:957
	Greater Bendigo	1:861
	Greater Geelong	1:717
	Latrobe	1:583
	Shepparton	1:800
	Southern Grampians	1:586
	Surf Coast	1:616 residents 1:128 0-14 years
Metro	Bayside	1:1,415
	Boroondara	1:1,362
	Glen Eira	1:2,790
	Kingston	1:1,090
	Moonee Valley	1,213
Horsham		1:817 all residents 1:155 0-14 years

PLAY SPACE PROVISION IN HORSHAM	
Hierarchy	Provision Count
Local	9
Municipal	5
Neighbourhood	6
Regional	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

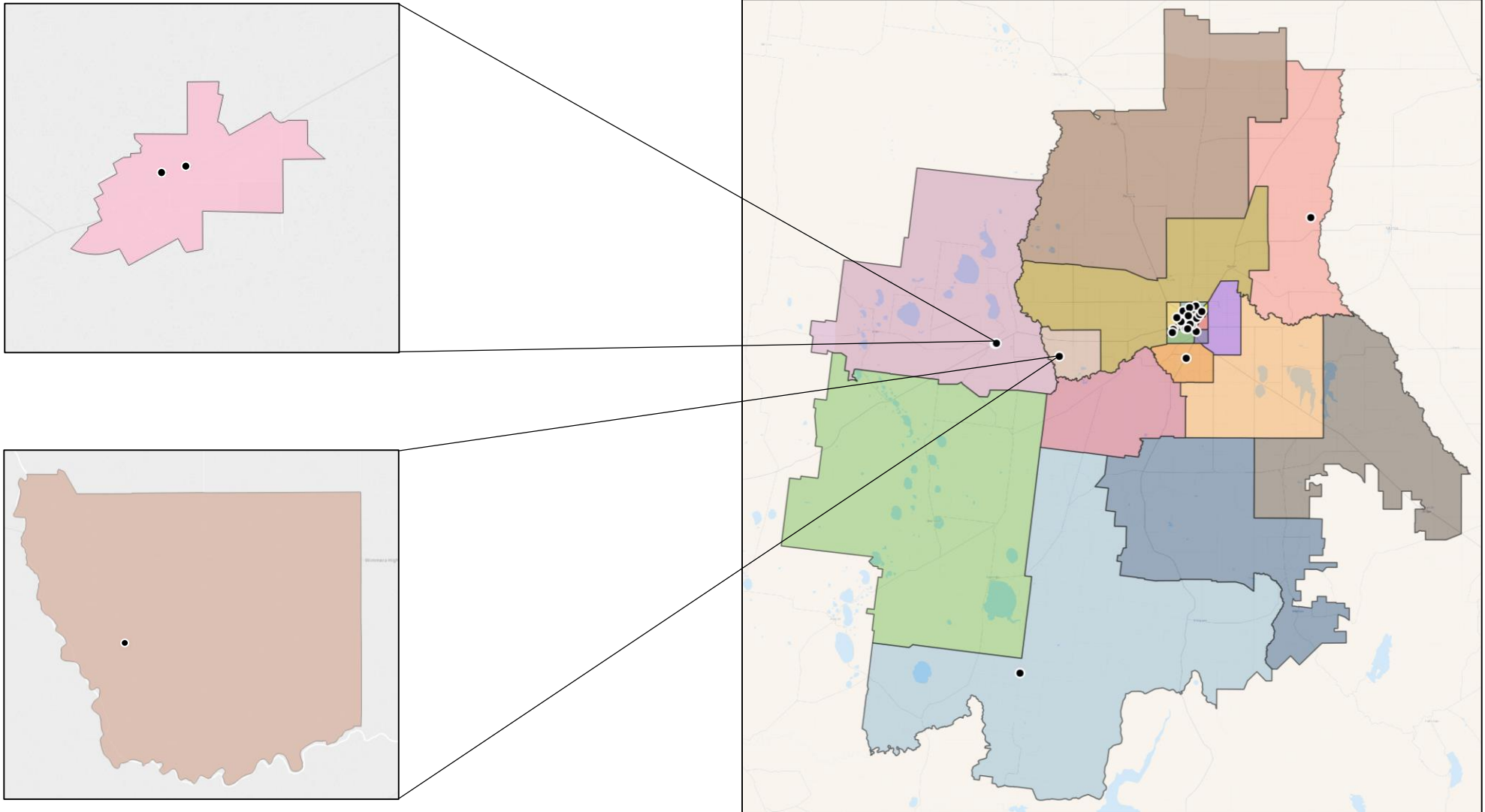
# PLAY SPACE DISTRIBUTION



Region	Park Name
<b>Local</b>	
Brimpaen	Telangatuk Hall
Central Horsham	City Oval East Playground
Horsham North	Charisma Park
Horsham North	Elbourne Park
Horsham North	Oatlands Park
Horsham South	Uebergang Park
Horsham South West	Drummond Park
Horsham South West	Gardenia Street Park
Horsham West	Bodey Court Park
<b>Neighbourhood</b>	
Horsham East	Lawrence Street Park
Horsham East	Sunnyside Park
Horsham West	Apex Park
Jung	Jung Peppertree Park
Natimuk	Lake Avenue - Natimuk Creek
Quantong	Quantong Recreation Reserve
<b>Municipal</b>	
Central Horsham	City Oval West Playground
Central Horsham	Major Mitchell Drive River Frontage Reserve
Horsham East	Jardwa Park
Natimuk	Natimuk Creek Reserve
Central Horsham	Botanical Gardens - Playground
<b>Regional</b>	
Horsham South West	Adventure Island
Haven	Haven Recreation Reserve
Horsham Inner North	May Park
Horsham South West	Weir Park



# PLAY SPACE DISTRIBUTION



# PLAY SPACE ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

For the purpose of this strategy, Horsham has been divided into 19 different localities, based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Statistical Area 1 (SA1) borders. The following table provides an overview of each of these localities and the number of play spaces within each:

Region	Number of play spaces	2016 Population	0-14 Years Population	% of Population aged 0-14 years	Ratio of play spaces per person	Ratio of play spaces per person aged 0-14	Provision Rating
Brimpaen	1	217	55	25%	1:217	1:55	Adequate
Central Horsham	3	682	82	12%	1:227	1:27	High
Drung	0	247	47	19%	-	-	None
Haven	1	1,303	298	23%	1:1,303	1:298	Very Low
Horsham East	3	2,766	454	16%	1:922	1:151	Low
Horsham Inner North	1	1,260	191	15%	1:1,260	1:191	Low
Horsham North	3	3,309	692	21%	1:1,103	1:231	Very Low
Horsham South	2	1,714	362	21%	1:857	1:181	Low
Horsham South West	4	2,847	534	19%	1:712	1:134	Very Low
Horsham West	2	1,932	379	20%	1:966	1:190	Low
Jung	1	240	56	23%	1:240	1:56	Adequate
Laharum	0	214	28	13%	-	-	None
McKenzie Creek	0	371	80	22%	-	-	None
Natimuk	2	388	38	10%	1:194	1:19	High
Natimuk District	0	223	55	25%	-	-	None
Pimpinio and Kalkee	0	337	85	25%	-	-	None
Quantong	1	311	53	17%	1:311	1:53	Adequate
Riverside	0	418	74	18%	-	-	None
Toolondo	0	241	60	25%	-	-	None
Vectis and Dooen	0	297	47	16%	-	-	None
Wartook	0	310	70	23%	-	-	None
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19,627</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>1:817</b>	<b>1:155</b>	<b>Low</b>

# PLAY SPACE HIERARCHY

The play space Hierarchy describes the level of play spaces and types of equipment and supporting infrastructure that may exist within the play space. It also includes user catchment distances and typical size. These are to be used as a guide in the provision of play space planning and may be subject to other considerations as they arise such as topography, major barriers including major roads, drains, flood plains and rail lines.

	Local play spaces	Neighbourhood play spaces	Municipal play spaces	Regional play spaces
<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primarily cater for local residents and people living and working within walking distance</li> <li>These spaces are less developed with limited play equipment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service residents from one or more localities</li> <li>Higher quality with a diversity of character in good locations</li> <li>People can use these play spaces for extended periods of time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a minimum, services the whole municipality</li> <li>Residents will come from other localities and regions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large, high quality destinations that have broad appeal and attract visitors and local community members</li> <li>Visitors may stay for a number of hours</li> </ul>
<b>Types of Facilities/ Amenities</b>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one seat/setting</li> <li>Pathways for accessibility</li> <li>Minimal formal play equipment and/or nature play design</li> <li>Natural shade for at least part of the area</li> </ul>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least two seats/settings</li> <li>Natural shade for at least part of the area</li> <li>Pathways for accessibility</li> </ul> May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscaping and irrigation</li> </ul>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous picnic settings</li> <li>Public toilets</li> <li>Shade</li> <li>Shelters, BBQ's, and bubblers</li> <li>Pathways for accessibility</li> </ul> May have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sport and recreation facilities for unstructured sport</li> <li>Landscaping and limited irrigated grass</li> </ul>	Should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverse opportunities for play for a range of ages</li> <li>Public toilets</li> <li>Picnic tables and seating</li> <li>Shade and shelter with shade over play space equipment</li> <li>Pathways for accessibility</li> <li>Landscaping, irrigated areas</li> <li>Off-road car parking</li> </ul>
<b>Typical Size</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.2 to 0.5 ha of usable land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.5 to 1.5 ha of usable land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.5 - 4 ha of usable land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 4 ha of usable land</li> </ul>
<b>Typical Catchment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5-10 min walking distance (about 500m)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10-15 min walking distance (about 750m)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most people drive to these</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most people drive to these</li> <li>Distributed within approximately 1.5km distance to dwellings and work places.</li> </ul>

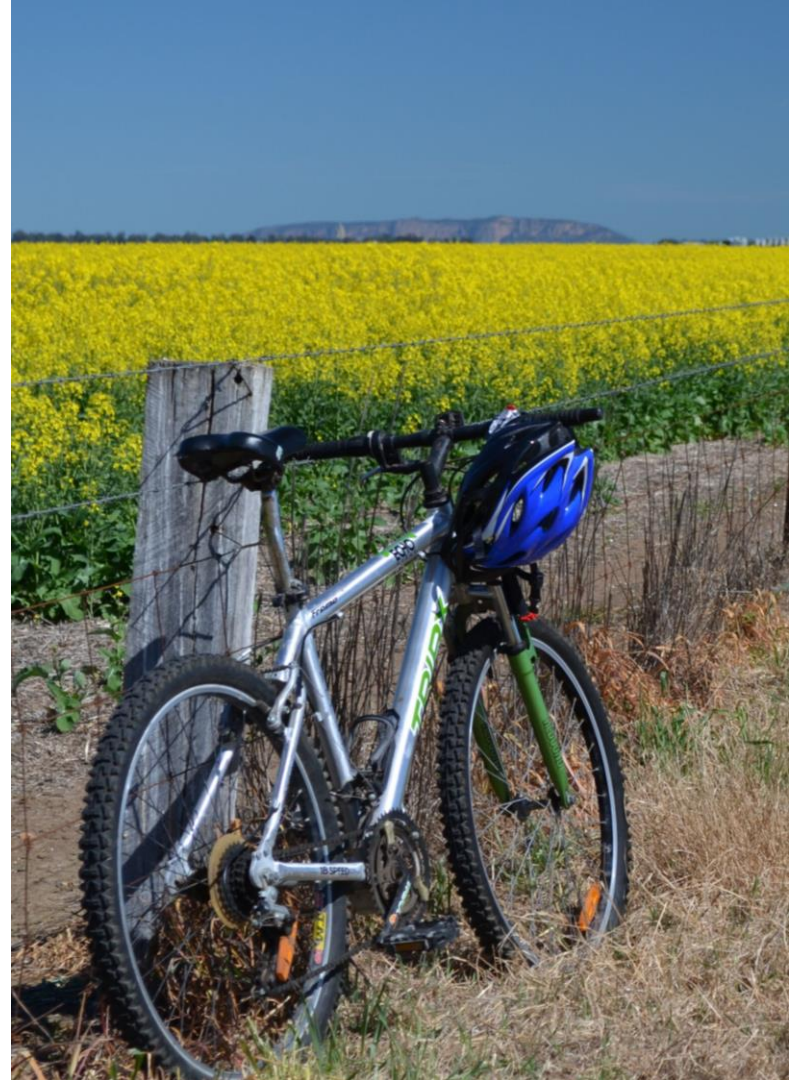




## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS



***"A leading regional community with an open space network that provides positive health and well-being outcomes for everybody."***



# STRATEGIC PILLARS

The strategy identifies seven key strategic pillars to guide the planning, provision and development of open space across the municipality:



**Increase connectivity**



**Redefine the Wimmera River**



**Improve open space**



**Enhance collaboration**



**Invest and plan for our future**



**Colour and green our region**



**Recognise and celebrate culture**

The following priority level has been used to guide the implementation of the actions and initiatives under each pillar. Priority indicates the timeframe in which each action is intended to commence.

**High:** 1-3 years

**Medium :** 4-6 years

**Low:** 7-10 years/ongoing

# 1. INCREASE CONNECTIVITY

1.1	Improve connectivity and access to and within open space	Priority
1.1.1	Improve connectivity by creating pedestrian and cycle linkages within the existing public open space network. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Police Paddock, Dudley Cornell Park, Wimmera River.</li> </ul>	Medium
1.1.2	Improve connectivity between Horsham CAD, existing and new residential developments, community services and key open spaces.	High
1.1.3	Undertake a pedestrian and cycle network analysis to determine gaps in provision and quality to guide future improvements and connections.	High
1.1.4	Develop safe pedestrian and cycle linkages along arterial roads. Identified connections include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haven to Horsham CAD (Holes Road/Hunts Road), Southwest Horsham to CAD (along Stawell Road), Natimuk to Horsham (Natimuk Road), Natimuk to Big Sky Bicycle Trail.</li> </ul>	Low
1.1.5	Improve existing pedestrian and Cycle connections across the railway network to improve safety and accessibility.	Low
1.1.6	Develop cycling and walking trails outside the urban area of the municipality, to provide a superior visitor experience and more recreational opportunities for residents. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wartook, Big Sky Trail, Natimuk.</li> </ul>	Low
1.1.7	Support connections to tourism opportunities to the identified tourist assets. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grampians National Park, Mt Arapiles</li> </ul>	Medium
1.1.8	Formalise and improve trails and connections from education centres to existing and future open space. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laharum and Cameron Oval.</li> </ul>	Medium
1.1.9	Plan and develop a network of connected urban trails incorporating the river corridor.	Medium
1.1.10	Formalise linkages to provide improved and continuous public access along both banks of the wider Wimmera River corridor and its tributaries.	High
1.1.11	Investigate shared pedestrian and vehicle zones and/or trials to activate open spaces within CAD.	Medium
1.2	Improve connectivity and access to and within open space	
1.2.1	Connect public open space to the surrounding pedestrian and cycle network.	Medium
1.2.2	Provide better pedestrian and cycle connections across Wimmera River.	Medium
1.2.3	Identify locations to develop universal access to the river with associated infrastructure.	High
1.3	Acquire land fronting the Wimmera River in the urban area of Horsham, to allow for land management and public access	
1.3.1	Identify and strategically acquire land along the river corridor required for provision of off-road walking and cycling paths.	High

## 2. RE-DEFINE THE WIMMERA RIVER

<b>2.1</b>	<b>Activate the Wimmera River and its environs in collaboration with stakeholders</b>	<b>Priority</b>
2.1.1	Recognise and manage any potential detrimental outcomes from increased access and use of the river corridor.	Ongoing
2.1.2	Enhance the river environs to provide for opportunities for increased biodiversity and habitat restoration.	High
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Improve access and connectivity to and around the Wimmera River</b>	
2.2.1	Formalise and secure easy and continuous public access for people of all abilities within the wider river corridor, including along both banks of the river. This may require the strategic acquisition of land to ensure standards for a shared path.	Medium
2.2.2	Engage with the community, Wimmera CMA, and other key stakeholders to determine the location and design of access to the river.	Medium
2.2.3	Consider the long-term relocation of the Horsham Caravan Park to open the riverfront to wider community access and usage.	Low
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Promote the Wimmera River corridor as a key community recreational asset</b>	
2.3.1	Support the community to deliver active living initiatives along the river corridor.	Ongoing
2.3.2	Identify and develop key locations on both sides of the river to improve facilities which accommodate a range of activities. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sawyer Park, City Oval and Horsham Showgrounds.</li> <li>Note: Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility at the Horsham Showgrounds would be determined as a result of the conducting of a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site)</li> </ul>	High
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Ensure ongoing recognition of cultural significance of the Wimmera River corridor</b>	
2.4.1	Ensure all river access is sustainable and respectful of biodiversity, river health, and indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage.	High



### 3. IMPROVE OPEN SPACE

3.1	Ensure equitable access to open space across the municipality	Priority
3.1.1	Address gaps in current open space provision, and work towards developing and funding an evaluation criteria that stages work into 1, 3, 5, or 10 year timeframes.	High
3.1.2	Address local, neighbourhood, municipal and regional gaps in open space across where identified in each locality.	High
3.2	Establish, manage and improve a diverse and integrated network of public open space that meets the needs of the community	
3.2.1	Develop a list of iconic assets and spaces that must be strongly enhanced – or partnered with for long-term reinvestment.	High
3.2.2	Activate the Botanic Gardens to increase permeability and connectivity with its surrounds.	Medium
3.2.3	Undertake CPTED/safety audit for all existing open space.	High
3.2.4	Prepare and/or update master plans for all existing and new neighbourhood, municipal and regional open spaces in the municipality to guide development. Priority open space include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sunnyside Park and Dudley Cornell Park.</li> </ul>	High
3.2.5	Identify gaps in facilities and amenities at all existing public open spaces to prioritise and guide upgrades to meet the open space principles in line with facilities required for each type/size of open space. These include, but not limited to, lighting, dog parks, play spaces, seating, safety issues and shade. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dudley Cornell Park, Sunnyside Park, May Park, Police Paddock, Langland's Park, Charisma Park, Horsham City Wimmera River corridor, Green Lake/Dock Lake and the Horsham Racecourse.</li> </ul>	High
3.2.6	Improve quality of existing play spaces using the open space principles by identifying and addressing gaps in provision, quality and variety to ensure the needs of all ages are met.	High
3.2.7	Re-develop the Railway Corridor into a key community asset that connects the city.	High
3.2.8	Provide greater public open space provision within the Horsham Central Activity District such as pocket parks, town squares, seasonal or temporary parks.	High
3.2.9	Incorporate streetscapes and linear landscapes into the open space network and design these spaces in-line with the open space principles and guidelines.	Medium
3.2.10	Enhance and protect natural areas which fall under Council's ownership/management and develop new natural/bush areas in line with biodiversity and environmental values.	Ongoing

## 4. ENHANCE COLLABORATION

4.1	Engage with key stakeholders so that open space provision and management is a multi-agency initiative that achieves shared objectives	Priority
4.1.1	Develop objectives for partnerships with each agency, with clearly defined outcomes and benefits for all involved. Identified agencies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barenji Gadjin Land Council, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.</li> </ul>	High
4.1.2	Engage and partner with user groups on Council managed and crown land to enhance community accessibility and multi-use of facilities.	High
4.1.3	Support and work with agencies to ensure environmental and cultural values are protected and appropriate sustainable recreation and tourism opportunities are provided. Identified agencies include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barenji Gadjin Land Council and Parks Victoria.</li> </ul>	High
4.1.4	Support the land managers, and co-managers, in their role of ensuring the protection of environmental and cultural values of national and state parks. Identified locations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mount Arapiles-Tooan State Park (Djurite), Grampians National Park (Gariwerd), Black Range State Park, Lake Natimuk and Natimuk Creek Lake Reserve.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
4.1.5	Engage with stakeholders to identify, protect, manage and formally recognise Wotjobaluk Peoples' cultural elements along the river corridor and tributaries.	High
4.1.6	In conjunction with GWM Water and local tourism bodies, invest in a tourism strategy or campaign to raise the profile of the region's great water and fishing assets.	Medium
4.1.7	Assist stakeholders and land managers in educating the community about the importance of wetlands and water bodies.	Ongoing
4.1.8	Work with VicTrack to strategically acquire the railway corridor land for public open space.	High

# 5. INVEST AND PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

<b>5.1</b>	<b>Develop clear and defensible planning decisions to ensure developers create the environment that both Council and the community want</b>	<b>Priority</b>
5.1.1	Implement changes to open space contributions into the planning scheme in line with the draft Open Space Contribution Policy.	High
<b>5.1.2</b>	Increase Open Space Developer Contributions in HRCC to 7-10% to elevate the city as a leader in Victoria.	High
<b>5.2</b>	<b>Improve open space governance and long-term planning</b>	
5.2.1	Establish and implement a Capital Investment Plan for open space that spans at least 10 years.	High
5.2.2	Develop procedures regarding management of activities on the river.	Medium
5.2.3	Ensure good management, maintenance practices and sufficient resources are provided to ensure the quality and sustainability of open space and associated assets.	High
5.2.4	Develop criteria and/or a decision-making framework/matrix to determine usability/suitability/value/fit-for purpose/accessibility of existing open space. Identified areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Horsham - residential area west of the racecourse lacks amenity/provision.</li> </ul>	High
5.2.5	Develop criteria and/or a decision-making framework/matrix to assess the sustainability and priority of new developments and upgrades to all types of open space in line with the open space principles. This should inform Council direction in response to Council-led recommendations, Council Plan projects, pipeline projects, development proposals, grant applications, community grants, community donations, and Council support for Crown land facilities.	High
5.2.6	Develop a municipal-wide Style Guide, which guides materials, colours, character and aesthetics for all public open space.	High
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Incorporate biodiversity values and respond to climate change</b>	
5.3.1	Prepare a Climate Change Strategy to assist future development in mitigating and adapting to climate change.	Medium
5.3.2	Identify and protect areas containing significant indigenous flora and fauna, in particular the listed threatened and rare species that exist within the area.	High
5.3.3	Ensure all open space development contributes to biodiversity, enhances and/or develops natural areas.	Ongoing
5.3.4	Identify and develop a specific flora species list that is consistent and suitable to the local climate.	Short
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Develop play spaces across the municipality which address gaps in provision and amenity</b>	
5.4.1	Identify gaps in provision and develop new play spaces to provide a variety of experiences for targeted age groups in conjunction with a landscape architect.	High

## 6. COLOUR AND GREEN OUR REGION

6.1	Improve the provision of open space within the CAD and develop a number of multipurpose spaces for wider community use	Priority
6.1.1	Identify and develop a series of green space pockets throughout the CAD for passive recreation.	High
6.1.2	Develop an Urban Forest Plan that guides the selection, planting, and replacement of trees.	High
6.1.3	Incorporate a variety of landscaping into open spaces.	Medium
6.1.4	Identify gaps and develop a network of green linkages between the existing open space network.	High



## 7. RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE CULTURE

7.1	Protect and preserve areas of cultural significance to the Wotjobaluk Peoples' through the open space network	Priority
7.1.1	Ensure any future significant events, objects, structures or features associated with the river corridor are appropriately acknowledged for their cultural significance.	High
7.1.2	Support DELWP and BGLC as land managers of the Wimmera River to improve the protection of the cultural and environmental values of the river that are in poor condition due to impacts of inappropriate recreation activities – especially four-wheel driving.	Ongoing

# **APPENDIX I: OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS**

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## Open Space Contributions

Open space contributions through the subdivision of land for the creation of new lots, is crucial to health and wellbeing of the community as it provides open space for new residents and the growing population of Horsham. There are a wide range of mechanisms available to councils and the lack of a clear and consistent model for calculating an appropriate contributions rate, a range of rates are applied through Clause 52.01 across Victoria. The table on the following page shows the contributions rates from other LGA's in Australia. The table shows that the contribution rates vary from 4.5% to 10% within Victoria, however are as high as 12.5% in South Australia. There is also significant variation in the way in which the rates are applied, including: Whether the schedule delineates between encumbered and unencumbered land;

- Whether a different rate (or any contribution at all) applies to non-residential land;
- Whether a sliding scale or a flat rate is applied; and
- Whether a different rate applies to growth areas as opposed to established areas.

As shown in the table, some Councils have applied differential rates, due to the varying levels of demand for open space in residential versus non-residential areas.

In Western Australia, the requirement is that 10% of the gross sub-divisible area of a conditional subdivision shall be given up free of cost by the subdivider for public open space. South Australia has a legislative requirement of '12.5% of land for open space'.

## References:

Western Australian Government. Department of Planning - State Planning Policy.

[https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/20ee6a7c-c4f6-4572-b05a-747078fc6b0d/DRAFT\\_SPP\\_3-6\\_development\\_contributions\\_infrastructure](https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/20ee6a7c-c4f6-4572-b05a-747078fc6b0d/DRAFT_SPP_3-6_development_contributions_infrastructure)

Tasmanian Government. Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts - Tasmanian Open Space Policy Report.

[http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/234690/Tasmanian\\_Open\\_Space\\_Policy\\_Report.pdf](http://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/234690/Tasmanian_Open_Space_Policy_Report.pdf)

Latrobe City Council. Review of Proposed Public Open Space Contributions.

# OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS

OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTIONS RATES		
Other Regional Centres		
	Residential	Non-Residential
<b>Latrobe</b>	All land: 10% of NDA, at least 5% unencumbered.	2% of NDA (unencumbered)
<b>Greater Geelong</b>	Armstrong Creek: 10% unencumbered (includes passive and active).	3.1% (Armstrong Creek - North East Industrial Precinct)
<b>Ballarat</b>	Ballarat West: 5.3% of GDA Other land in UGZ: 10% (residential); All other land: 5%	10% for land in Urban Growth Zone (commercial & industrial); 5% all other land
<b>South Gippsland</b>	Min. 5%	Min. 5%
<b>Wellington</b>	5% (All land within GRZ1, LDRZ, TZ, RLZ or TZ)	None Specified
<b>Wodonga</b>	5%	None specified
<b>Baw Baw</b>	All land within Warragul and Drouin PSPs: 4.5% of NDA (passive)	None Specified
Metropolitan		
<b>Mornington Peninsula</b>	5% to 12%	5% commercial & industrial
<b>Knox</b>	5% to 8.5%	None specified
<b>Wyndham</b>	7.5% is required of the gross developable area of a residential development site	None Specified
<b>Dandenong</b>	5% default	2% for all INZ1, INZ2, INZ3, B3Z, B4Z
<b>Casey</b>	5% unless there is a higher rate included in the planning scheme.	None Specified
Other States		
<b>WA</b>	12.5% of new subdivisions or 3 hectares per 1,000 people, whichever is greater.	
<b>SA</b>	10% of the gross subdivisible area <sup>16</sup> of a conditional subdivision to be given up free of cost by the subdivider for public open space and vested in the Crown as a Reserve for Recreation	
<b>TAS</b>	5% of new subdivisions or 4 or more hectares of open space per 1,000 residents	



## Limitations

Current practice at Horsham Rural City has been to apply the 5% uniformly across all residential land subdivision. There are several limitations with this approach. These include:

- The 5% of land being offered by the developer is often not assessed in relation to open space planning, processes and community needs.
- The 5% contribution does not necessarily relate to the quantity or quality of open space that may be needed by the community within the area (e.g. difference in open space needs between Greenfield sites and infill higher density residential development).
- The 5% contribution may be taken as cash-in-lieu but is based on the valuation of unimproved land rather than as developed land, and consequently the contribution can fall short of required funding for open space facilities.
- The 5% represents the maximum land requirement that can be taken and thus councils may be required to purchase additional land to achieve more effective open space areas.
- The 5% of land may not necessarily meet a wide range of open space needs within the community including activities, experiences and facilities (e.g. -active recreation).
- The assessment of open space as subdivisions are submitted limits the capacity of councils to fully assess the future needs within the municipality (in the absence of strategic open space plans).

## Key Findings

The key findings from the open space assessment found that:

- The open space provision in Horsham of 14.6 ha per 1,000 residents is somewhat higher than typical metropolitan provision ratios.
- The open space provision falls within the range of regional Councils analysed (pg. 19), however is significantly lower than Greater Geelong and Warrnambool but higher than Ballarat and Greater Bendigo.
- Open space contributions rates and mechanisms vary greatly across Victoria. Rates typically range from 5% to 10% in regional areas, and are generally higher in residential growth areas (usually 8% to 10%). • Interstate developer contributions are slightly higher, at 10% in Western Australia and 12.5% in South Australia.
- The suitability and quality of open space across the municipality is poor, with little shade, limited paths, and dated playground equipment.
- The ad hoc nature of development has meant provision of open space is not well connected and has poor linkages between parks and reserves.
- There are a number of developing precincts across the Horsham city with limited access to active recreation spaces. This recognises that Council has never had an open space contributions policy, which has led to ad hoc and poor planning outcomes – most notably in Horsham North and to a lesser extent in Horsham South
- Provision of, and access to public spaces and community gardens is limited in the CAD and surrounding residential grid.
- There is poor tree canopy cover in the CAD, and given the Wimmera climate, there is need for more shaded and green open space areas across the city.

## Recommendations

Analysis undertaken for this strategy (using the estimated population growth of 2,167 new residents in 2031) concluded that 10% of the area of the land being subdivided into new lots should be allocated as a public open space.

The open space assessment found that whilst there is quantity of open space in established areas of Horsham it does not meet current standards and there will be a need to upgrade open space in the future.

In new growth areas, both land acquisition for new open space and improvements to those open spaces are required and it will be important to ensure any contribution is well located and improved to meet community expectations and current standards.

In order to ensure an equitable and consistent approach, open space contributions should relate to unencumbered land only. Supporting policy should be drafted relating to circumstances where council will accept encumbered land for open space in addition to unencumbered land.

Horsham is a regional city and has experienced significant growth in the past and it is expected there will be an ongoing growth and development which will place a greater load on the city's open space network. The municipality is currently investing in plans for the city's transformation to improve the liveability and open space and recreation facilities.

A consistent approach to public open space investment and planning is required and including a 7-10% contribution into the Horsham Planning Scheme is mandatory based on benchmarking analysis.

# OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTION POLICY (DRAFT)

## 1. Background

Open space contribution through the subdivision of land for creation of new lots, is crucial to health and wellbeing and development of the community as it provides open space for new residents and the growing population of Horsham.

Legislation establishes that when processing applications for subdivision of land within the municipal area the Council is required to consider the allocation of land towards public open space or a contribution for cash in lieu thereof. The provisions for public open space is in accordance with the requirements of the Subdivision Act 1988 and the specific provision contained in the Planning Scheme (Clause 52.01).

The Horsham Rural City Council definition of open space states that Open Space is publicly owned land used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. Open space is broken down into the following categories:

**Sport grounds:** Sporting facilities including sports fields and courts, as well as supporting infrastructure such as play spaces, seating, clubhouses and amenities.

**Recreation spaces:** Active or passive recreation including parks with social areas such as BBQs, gardens, play spaces for young and old, walking tracks and fitness equipment, dog exercise areas. Includes unembellished parks.

**Natural areas:** Spaces managed to protect, enhance and create natural environments such as waterways (which include wetlands), increased habitat for wildlife, restoration and preservation of existing bushland areas and increased tree canopy.

**Linkages:** Cycle and/or pedestrian paths that connect to other areas of open space or destinations such as town centres, schools and natural assets.

**Civic spaces:** Space for community and civic events like town centres, or with a co-located community facility such as a library or community centre.

Council aims to ensure that open space networks:

- Are linked, including through the provision of walking and cycling trails.
- Are integrated with open space from abutting subdivisions.
- Incorporate, where possible, links between major parks and activity areas, along waterways and natural drainage corridors, connecting places of natural and cultural interest.
- Maintain public accessibility on public land immediately adjoining waterways.

## 2. Objectives of the Policy

- To ensure that adequate provision is made for public open space that enables high quality outcomes, which benefits all residents and users.
- To ensure the provision of public open space provides for a range of multiple uses and a diverse range of activities, including connecting different public spaces, encouraging active neighbourhoods and tourism, and protecting natural values.
- To ensure that land developers contribute to the provision of public open space commensurate with the scale of development.
- To establish an open space contribution as per the Subdivision Act 1998, that delivers on the recommendations of the Horsham Rural City Council Open Space Strategy.

# OPEN SPACE CONTRIBUTION POLICY (DRAFT)

## Policy

3.1 In considering any land subdivision proposal, the need for public open space will be assessed on its merits and a contribution will be required by way of either:

- a) 7-10% of the area of the land being subdivided into new lots to be allocated as a public open space contribution; or
- b) a 7-10% cash-in-lieu contribution that is equivalent to the value of part or all of the land being subdivided into new lots.

3.2 A decision as to whether land or cash-in-lieu is provided will be dependent upon whether the proposed subdivision provides an opportunity to obtain land that meets the aims and objectives of this Policy. If the subdivided land is not able to provide a public open space component of substantial community benefit, then cash-in-lieu will be required.

3.3 A boundary adjustment proposal, where no additional lots are created, shall not be subject to the 7-10% contribution.

3.4 Where a subdivision is submitted in the form of a staged development, the public open space contributions can be paid proportionately.

3.5 Where it is not appropriate that land be provided for public open space purposes within the proposed subdivision, then a 10% cash contribution is to be taken on the following basis:

- a) the cash contribution is to be based on the newly created additional lots,
- b) the calculation of the 7-10% cash contribution is to be based on the unimproved value of the additional lot or lots created and not the balance lot; and
- c) the lots created from a further subdivision of the subdivided lots and balance are required to also provide public open space contributions.

3.5 Open space contribution will be required when a property is in to the

farming, commercial or industrial zones.

3.6 The amount of the cash-in-lieu contribution shall be determined by either:

- a) a valuation from a qualified valuer as obtained by the subdivider; or
- b) the Responsible Authority accepting a contribution calculated on the basis of the most recent government valuation. This is to be adjusted for inflation over time using the Valuer General's adjustment factor and any other mitigating factors deemed appropriate.

3.7 All money received by way of contribution shall be reserved by Council in a separate account and recorded against the local area from which the funds were collected. These funds will in future be expended within local areas and across the Horsham's Open Space network.

3.8 The expenditure of reserved public open space funds will be allocated to projects as part of the capital works budget.

## 4. Guidelines

4.1 Provision of land where land is provided, shall be able to meet future community needs as identified within Council's open space strategies. The provision of public open space allows for a reasonable distribution of land able to be used for active and passive recreation. This includes smaller recreational areas within easy walking distance of residences, larger parks and playing fields, bushland areas, coastal or riparian reserves, recreational trails and walking links to local schools or shops.

4.2 Allocation of cash contribution funds derived from cash-in-lieu contributions are to be allocated in accordance with any adopted Council open space strategy or plan or in order to meet local public open space or recreational needs.

## 5. Application

This Policy applies to all applications to subdivide land in the municipal area. This Policy does not apply to the Council for any subdivision of Council land other than for any development undertaken for residential purposes.

## 6. Definitions

"Cash in Lieu of Public Open Space" means security for payment of an amount of 7-10 per cent of the whole area comprised in the plan of subdivision less any area provided for public open space in the final plan and any area created by the final plan or the littoral or riparian in reserves.

"Public Open Space" means publicly owned land used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. "Planning Scheme" means a legal document prepared by the local council or the Minister for Planning, and approved by the Minister. It contains policies and provisions that control land use and development.



## **APPENDIX II: CASE STUDIES OF OPEN SPACE SUCCESS**

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## CASE STUDY ONE Riverside Revitalisation Rockhampton

- A group of sporting clubs in Wellington, New Zealand are working together to combine resources and be based in one common facility.
- The Johnsonville Cricket Club, Johnsonville Rugby Club, North Wellington Senior Football Club, North Wellington Junior Football Club, Olympic Harrier and Athletic Club and the Wellington Deaf Society have joined forces to raise at least \$2 million for the building, which is estimated to cost \$4.2 million.
- The Johnsonville Cricket Club building, in poor condition, will be demolished and the new building connected to the existing Olympic Harrier and Athletic Club building. The City Council will design the new building and project-manage the construction.
- The new facility will include a gym, changing rooms, office, meeting rooms, kitchen, function rooms/ bar, storage facilities, car parking, public toilets and showers. The plan is for the new facility to be a sustainable asset staffed by a full-time manager and assistant.
- Wellington City Councilors recently approved unanimously \$2.2 million in funding for the project, and construction is expected to start in 2020/21 and take six to nine months.

<https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/funding-approved-for-wellingtons-alex-moore-park-sports-and-community-hub/>



## CASE STUDY TWO Cheonggyecheon River Linear Park Seoul

- The Cheonggyecheon River linear park is renowned as one of the world's greatest urban design projects, undergoing a transformation from an elevated freeway and concrete paved waterway into a 5.8km long "day-lit" stream corridor.
- In the 1940s, the Cheonggyecheon had deteriorated into an open sewer and was eventually paved over with concrete for sanitation reasons. In the 1970's, an elevated freeway was built overtop the waterway, removing it from the public view. Like many underpasses, the area beneath the freeway was mostly avoided, becoming known for criminal activity and illegal dumping.
- In the early 2000's, then mayor and future president of Korea, Lee Myung-Bak successfully campaigned to remove the freeway and restore the Cheonggyecheon. From 2002 to 2005, the government replaced the road with a 5.8km restored and planted stream.
- To alleviate traffic congestion, the government also invested heavily in public transportation, installing a dedicated bus lane and walking/cycling track.
- Now open at all hours, the linear park is host to hundreds of events and art installations every year and attracts over 60,000 visitors daily. The restoration process has also provided huge boosts to local biodiversity and catalysed economic development in the area.

<https://inhabitat.com/how-the-cheonggyecheon-river-urban-design-restored-the-green-heart-of-seoul/>



## CASE STUDY THREE

### Territory Arts Trail

Northern Territory

- The Northern Territory has always had a rich abundance of art and culture, which has provided a draw for national and international tourists to visit the area.
- The Northern Territory Government is investing over \$100 million to build an Arts Trail throughout the Territory.
- Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture, Lauren Moss, said the message will be that the world's biggest art gallery is in the Northern Territory, with the goal to showcase the 65,000 years worth of art history and growth.
- The Arts Trail will run through the Territory and will feature and highlight art centers, festivals, events, sites, galleries and cultural tours.
- The increased focus on the Northern Territory's art abundance will position the Territory as the top destination for Australian Aboriginal art and culture, thereby increasing economic production and creating local jobs.
- [https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/northern-territory-arts-trail-campaign-to-boost-tourism/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=7th%20February&utm\\_content=7th%20February+CID\\_5fb38f3676276ccf2ae7537726bce965&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Northern%20Territory%20Arts%20Trail%20Campaign%20to%20Boost%20Tourism](https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/northern-territory-arts-trail-campaign-to-boost-tourism/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7th%20February&utm_content=7th%20February+CID_5fb38f3676276ccf2ae7537726bce965&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Northern%20Territory%20Arts%20Trail%20Campaign%20to%20Boost%20Tourism)



## CASE STUDY FOUR

### Big Pineapple

Sunshine Coast

- The Big Pineapple on the Sunshine Coast was a stand-out tourist attraction in the 1980's, but has since lost its draw and appeal.
- Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones and Big Pineapple Renewal Project Director Jim Costello are working to revive the popularity of the Big Pineapple through site renovations to include a Tree Tops high ropes and zipline course, water park, adventure precinct, concert space, on-site accommodation and agribusiness precinct.
- The plan has an intention of sustained success, with plans to highlight the agriculture, music events and adventure tourism.
- The \$150 million master plan projects to improve both domestic and international tourism to the area by bringing in over a million visitors per year to reach tourism potential, improve economy and provide new jobs.
- [https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/work-advances-on-new-attractions-and-event-space-at-sunshine-coasts-big-pineapple/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=4th%20February&utm\\_content=4th%20February+CID\\_cce2fe9b9911ca84d8e6685b74d39c99&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Work%20advances%20on%20new%20attractions%20and%20event%20space%20at%20Sunshine%20Coasts%20Big%20Pineapple](https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/work-advances-on-new-attractions-and-event-space-at-sunshine-coasts-big-pineapple/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=4th%20February&utm_content=4th%20February+CID_cce2fe9b9911ca84d8e6685b74d39c99&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Work%20advances%20on%20new%20attractions%20and%20event%20space%20at%20Sunshine%20Coasts%20Big%20Pineapple)



## CASE STUDY FIVE Active Living Program Cairns

- The Cairns Active Living Program currently offers free fitness classes give days a week along the Cairns Esplanade to encourage residents to get active in a social environment.
- Because the Esplanade is not accessible to all of Cairns, the Active Living Program is set to expand to include four suburban parks around the city.
- Funding has come from the North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF) and the North Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) to allow for the introduction of a three month trial expansion, with the potential for further classes if engagement is high.
- Offering free fitness in a social capacity breaks down barriers to good health, and by expanding the locations at which the classes are offered, more residents can be included and encouraged to get and stay fit.
- [https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/free-fitness-classes-to-get-cairns-active/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=28th%20February&utm\\_content=28th%20February+CID\\_d35a78a836bd253bac5d491e0bf57eb2&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Free%20fitness%20classes%20to%20get%20Cairns%20active](https://www.ausleisure.com.au/news/free-fitness-classes-to-get-cairns-active/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=28th%20February&utm_content=28th%20February+CID_d35a78a836bd253bac5d491e0bf57eb2&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Free%20fitness%20classes%20to%20get%20Cairns%20active)



## CASE STUDY SIX Green Energy Gym Technology Hull

- The Great Outdoor Gym Company (TGOGC) is a British Company that has introduced Green Energy Gym Technology which captures the energy from cardio machines and translates it to electricity.
- At Green Heart at Shaw Park, the facility is lit by energy sourced from exercise and features a People Power Display Wall that measures the generation and allows gym-goers to see their energy production.
- The goal is to use this power source in future endeavors towards implementation in local buildings and eventually the National Grid, while motivating users to generate their energy for a greater use, as well as for their fitness.
- The use of human energy as a power source provides the potential for both public health and environmentally conscious power benefits.
- <https://www.zdnet.com/article/green-energy-gym-technology-turns-exercise-into-electricity/>

## **APPENDIX III: OPEN SPACES IN HORSHAM**

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# LOCAL OPEN SPACE (1/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Alexander Avenue Park	Horsham North	18 Alexander Avenue, Horsham VIC 3400	0.08	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Apex Park	Horsham South West	Bennett Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.58	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Baillie St Footpath Reserve - Karingal	Horsham West	Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.0951	Open	Other	Footpath reserve
Birch Avenue Reserve	Horsham Inner North	11 Birch Ave, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1253	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Bodey Court Park	Horsham West	8 Bodey Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.226	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Carter Street Park	Horsham West	Carter Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1241	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Charisma Park	Horsham North	Entry via Hennessy/Watts/Winifred Streets, Horsham 3400	0.34	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
City Gardens	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham 3401	0.9271	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
City Gardens Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham 3402	0.4946	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Colla Court Park	Horsham South	4A Colla Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.137	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Crossleys Dam	Natimuk District	Natimuk Hamilton Road, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.845	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Dadswells Bridge Hall	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	5820 Western Highway, Dadswells Bridge VIC 3385	0.432	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Dawson Court Footpath Reserve	Horsham South West	Dawson Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.15	Open	Other	Footpath reserve
Dawson Court Park	Horsham South West	5 Dawson Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.085	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Dooen Hall	Vectis and Dooen	1025 Henty Highway, Dooen VIC 3401	0.227	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Dooen Road Park	Horsham Inner North	55 Dooen Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.099	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Clark Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.097	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Clark Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.087	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Urquhart Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.307	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	11 Madden Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.097	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	113 Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.093	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Central Horsham	Madden Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.408	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	Pryors Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.053	Open	Other	Drainage reserve

# LOCAL OPEN SPACE (2/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Drainage Reserve	Haven	Kenny Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.655	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham West	McIntyre Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.681	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	91 Cameron Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.603	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.217	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Stawell Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.106	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Derry Parade, Horsham VIC 3400	0.767	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Vectis and Dooen	Wimmera Highway, Vectis VIC 3401	0.81	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drummond Park	Horsham South West	Drummond Street, Horsham 3400	0.24	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Elbourne Park	Horsham North	Hazel Street, Horsham 3400	0.2	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Evans Way Garden on Naturestripe	Horsham South	Evans Way, Horsham VIC 3400	0.0216	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Fisher Square Park	Horsham East	Fisher Square, Horsham VIC 3400	0.273	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Former Remlaw Tennis Courts	Pimpinio and Kalkee	Polkemmet Road, Vectis VIC 3401	0.275	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Gardenia Street Park	Horsham South West	Gardenia Street, Horsham 3400	0.30	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Green Lake	Drung	Western Highway, Bungalally VIC 3401	0.925	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Guide and Scout Complex	Central Horsham	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham VIC 3400	0.7663	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Hartigan Court Reserve	Horsham South West	Hartigan Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1278	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Haven Community Dam	Haven	Plozzas Road, Haven VIC 3401	0.761	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Haven Hall	Haven	4378 Henty Highway, Haven VIC 3401	0.409	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Haven Recreation Reserve	Haven	4378 Henty Highway, Haven 3401	9.9135	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Netball Club	Central Horsham	20A O'Callaghans Parade , Horsham VIC 3400	0.064	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation

# LOCAL OPEN SPACE (3/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Horsham Town Hall	Central Horsham	71 Pynsent Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.002	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Jung Hall	Jung	28 Baker Street, Jung VIC 3401	0.299	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Jung Peppertree Park	Jung	Baker Street, Jung 3401	0.6773	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Kalimna Park Croquet Club	Central Horsham	207 Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.766	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Karingal Crescent Park	Horsham West	335 Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.066	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Laharum Hall	Wartook	1586 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum VIC 3401	0.779	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Lawrence Street Park	Horsham East	Lawrence Street, Horsham 3400	1.3205	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Mayfield Court Drainage Reserve	Horsham South	Mayfield Court, Horsham VIC 3401	0.2076	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Mitre Hall	Natimuk District	1429 Natimuk Frances Road, Mitre VIC 3409	0.101	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Natimuk Road / Barnes Boulevard Reserve	Horsham South West	163-177 Wimmera Highway, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1595	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Natimuk Soldiers Memorial Park	Natimuk	Main Street, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.408	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Natimuk Tennis Courts	Natimuk	2 Elmes Street, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.482	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Natimuk Town Hall	Natimuk	101 Main Street, Natimuk VIC 3409	0.102	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Noradjuha Memorial Hall	Toolondo	4 Noradjuha Tooan East Road, Noradjuha VIC 3409	0.287	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Oatlands Park	Horsham North	Wavell Street / Alexander Avenue, Horsham 3400	0.10	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Peppertree Lane Walking Track	Riverside	32 Peppertree Lane, Horsham VIC 3400	0.732	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Perry Drive Footpath Reserve	Horsham East	Perry Drive, Horsham VIC 3400	0.0527	Open	Other	Footpath reserve
Pimpinio School Reserve	Pimpinio and Kalkee	Fisher Street, PIMPINIO VIC 3401	0.968	Limited	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Pioneer Court Reserve	Horsham North	Pioneer Court, Horsham 3400	0.11	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens

# LOCAL OPEN SPACE (4/4)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Quantong Recreation Reserve	Quantong	52 Chequers Road, Quantong VIC 3401	0.065	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Reserve	Vectis and Dooen	Dooen School Road, Dooen VIC 3401	0.228	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Road Reserve	Horsham North	Queen Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.02	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Road Reserve	Horsham South	Bradshaw Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.029	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Road Reserve	Horsham South West	Curran Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.086	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Road Reserve	Brimpaen	Wonwondah Toolondo Road, Nurrabel VIC 3401	0.025	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Sinclair Place Reserve	Horsham West	Sinclair Place, Horsham VIC 3400	0.035	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Southbank Entrance Reserve	Horsham South	Major Mitchell Drive, Horsham 3400	0.0721	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Spry Court Walking Track	Central Horsham	4 Spry Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.118	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Stormwater	Horsham East	25 Stockton Drive, Horsham VIC 3400	0.037	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Stormwater Basin	Central Horsham	Darlot Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.025	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Taylors Lake Hall	Laharum and Dadswells Bridge	2032 Horsham Lubeck Road, St. Helens Plains VIC 3401	0.253	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Tobruk Street Reserve	Horsham South	Tobruk Street, Horsham VIC 3401	0.075	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Uebergang Park	Horsham South	Colla Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.4047	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Vacant Land - Clear Lake	Toolondo	Harrow Clear Lake Road, Clear Lake VIC 3409	0.206	Limited	Other	Other
Vacant Land Reserved for Bike Path	Horsham East	McBryde Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.098	Limited	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Victrack Railway Lot 44 (Leased)	Horsham North	66 Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.348	Closed	Other	Transport reservation
Walking Track	Horsham East	87 Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.671	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Water Storage	Horsham South	Osborne Road, Horsham VIC 3400	0.336	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Watson Court Park	Horsham East	Watson Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.032	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Watts Street Park	Horsham North	19 Watts Street, Horsham VIC 3400	0.078	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Windsor Court Park	Horsham South West	19 Windsor Crescent, Horsham VIC 3400	0.267	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Wootonga Basin Reserve - Spry Court	Central Horsham	Spry Court, Horsham VIC 3400	0.1178	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space

# NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE (1/2)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Burnt Creek Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3400	2.0795	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Cameron Oval	Wartook	1473 Northern Grampians Road, Laharum VIC 3401	4.496	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Coughlin Park	Horsham East	Robinson Street, Horsham 3400	3.86	Limited	Sports grounds	Parks and gardens
Drainage Reserve	Horsham East	58 Cameron Road, North Horsham VIC 3400	1.242	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Drainage Reserve	Horsham West	Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC 3400	4.923	Open	Other	Drainage reserve
Dudley Cornell Park	Horsham North	Gertrude Street, Horsham 3400	3.93	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Edward Street Park	Horsham North	Edward Street, Horsham VIC 3400	1.184	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Foundary Park	Horsham North	Dimboola Road, Horsham VIC 3400	3.0498	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Hellipad - Baillie Street	Horsham East	Baillie Street, Horsham VIC 3400	2.7318	Open	Other	Other
Jardwa Park	Horsham East	4 Arnott Street, Horsham VIC 3400	2.162	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Kalkee Recreation Reserve	Pimpinio and Kalkee	1674 Blue Ribbon Road, Kalkee VIC 3401	3.694	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Kokoda Drive Park	Haven	22 Kokoda Drive, Haven VIC 3401	2.005	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Langlands Park	Horsham North	Houston Street, Horsham 3400	1.28	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Major Mitchell Drive River Frontage Rese	Central Horsham	Riverbank, Horsham VIC 3400	3.9926	Open	Natural areas	Recreation corridor
Menadue Street Reserve (for bike path)	Horsham East	Menadue Street, Horsham VIC 3400	3.349	Open	Linkages	Transport reservation
Natimuk Creek Reserve 1	Natimuk	Lake Avenue, Natimuk VIC 3409	3.6146	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Natimuk Creek Reserve 2	Natimuk	Lake Avenue, Natimuk VIC 3409	4.2305	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Nature Reserve	Jung	Wimmera Highway, Jung VIC 3401	1.114	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space



# NEIGHBOURHOOD OPEN SPACE (2/2)

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Palm Avenue Park	Horsham North	Palm Avenue, Horsham VIC 3400	2.018	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Pimpinio Sports & Community Centre	Pimpinio and Kalkee	70 Miller Street, Pimpinio VIC 3401	4.143	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Quantong Recreation Reserve	Quantong	52 Chequers Road, Quantong VIC 3401	3.9339	Open	Recreation spaces	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Road Reserve	Toolondo	Emmersons Road, Noradjuha VIC 3409	1.02	Open	Recreation spaces	Transport reservation
Sawyer Park	Central Horsham	Hocking Street, Horsham 3400	4.35	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Sunnyside Park	Horsham East	Olga Avenue, Horsham 3400	4.0868	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Telangatuk East Hall Reserve	Brimpaen	1207 Telangatuk East-Rocklands Road, Telangatuk East VIC 3401	2.8766	Open	Recreation spaces	Civic squares and promenades
The Sunnyside (Horsham) Sporting Club	Horsham East	8 Charles Street, Horsham VIC 3400	1.066	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Toolondo Recreation Reserve	Toolondo	Natimuk Hamilton Road, Toolondo VIC 3401	1.213	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Velodrome	Horsham East	34-22 Hamilton Street, Horsham VIC 3400	2.7625	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Walking Track - Barnes Boulevard	Central Horsham	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham VIC 3400	1.001	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor

# MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE

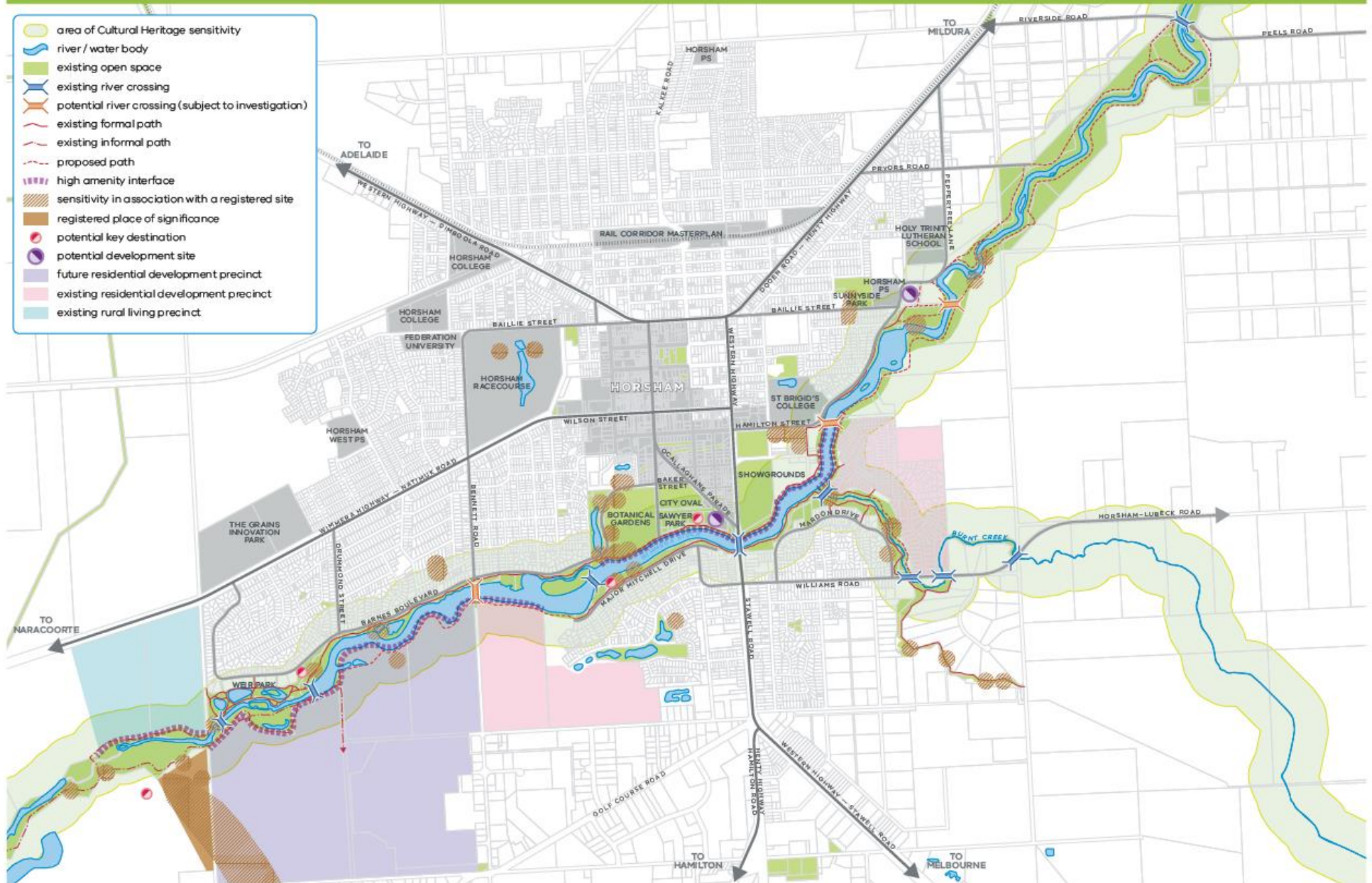
Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Barnes Boulevard River Frontage	Horsham South	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	10.0988	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Barnes Boulevard River Frontage	Horsham South	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	11.9212	Open	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Burnt Creek Reserve North of Williams Rd	Horsham East	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3401	13.2607	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Burnt Creek Reserve South of Williams Rd	Horsham South	Williams Road, Horsham VIC 3401	6.7888	Open	Natural areas	Transport reservation
Dock Lake Reserve	Drung	15 Dock Lake Road, Drung VIC 3401	5.333	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Haven Tennis Courts	Haven	4376 Henty Highway, Haven VIC 3401	9.099	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Croquet Club	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	11.451	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Lawn Tennis Club	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	11.451	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Riverside Caravan Park Frontage	Central Horsham	190 Firebrace Street, Horsham VIC 3400	11.451	Limited	Linkages	Recreation corridor
Kanagulk Hall	Brimpaen	4859 Natimuk Hamilton Road, Kanagulk VIC 3401	6.988	Limited	Civic spaces	Civic squares and promenades
Manadue Street - Road and Road side rese	Horsham East	Menadue Street, Horsham VIC 3399	5.2157	Open	Linkages	Transport reservation
Natimuk Showgrounds Recreation Reserve	Natimuk	Station Street, Natimuk 3409	5.63	Limited	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Nature Reserve	Pimpinio and Kalkee	Blue Ribbon Road, Kalkee VIC 3401	12.08	Open	Recreation spaces	Natural and semi-natural open space
Riverside Recreation Reserve	Riverside	96 Riverside Road, Dooen VIC 3401	7.176	Open	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Vacant Farm Land	Horsham South	Plumpton Road, Horsham VIC 3400	44.587	Closed	Other	Other

# REGIONAL OPEN SPACE

Name	Region	Address	Area (Ha)	Access	Category	Subcategory
Adventure Island	Central Horsham	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	2.099	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Botanical Gardens	Central Horsham	Firebrace Street, Horsham 3400	4.73	Limited	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
City Oval	Central Horsham	Baker Street, Horsham 3400	3.65	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Showgrounds	Horsham East	McPherson Street, Horsham 3400	21.76	Highly Limited	Other	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Horsham Skate Park	Horsham West	Park Drive, Horsham 3400	0.50	Open	Recreation spaces	Civic squares and promenades
May Park	Horsham Inner North	Dimboola Road/Baillie Street, Horsham 3400	1.2817	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens
Police Paddock Nature Reserve	Vectis and Dooen	Rasmussen Road, Horsham 3400	51.0737	Open	Natural areas	Natural and semi-natural open space
Racecourse Reserve	Horsham West	Bennett Road, Horsham 3400	32.3214	Limited	Sports grounds	Sportsfields and organised recreation
Weir Park	Horsham South	Barnes Boulevard, Horsham 3400	4.41	Open	Recreation spaces	Parks and gardens

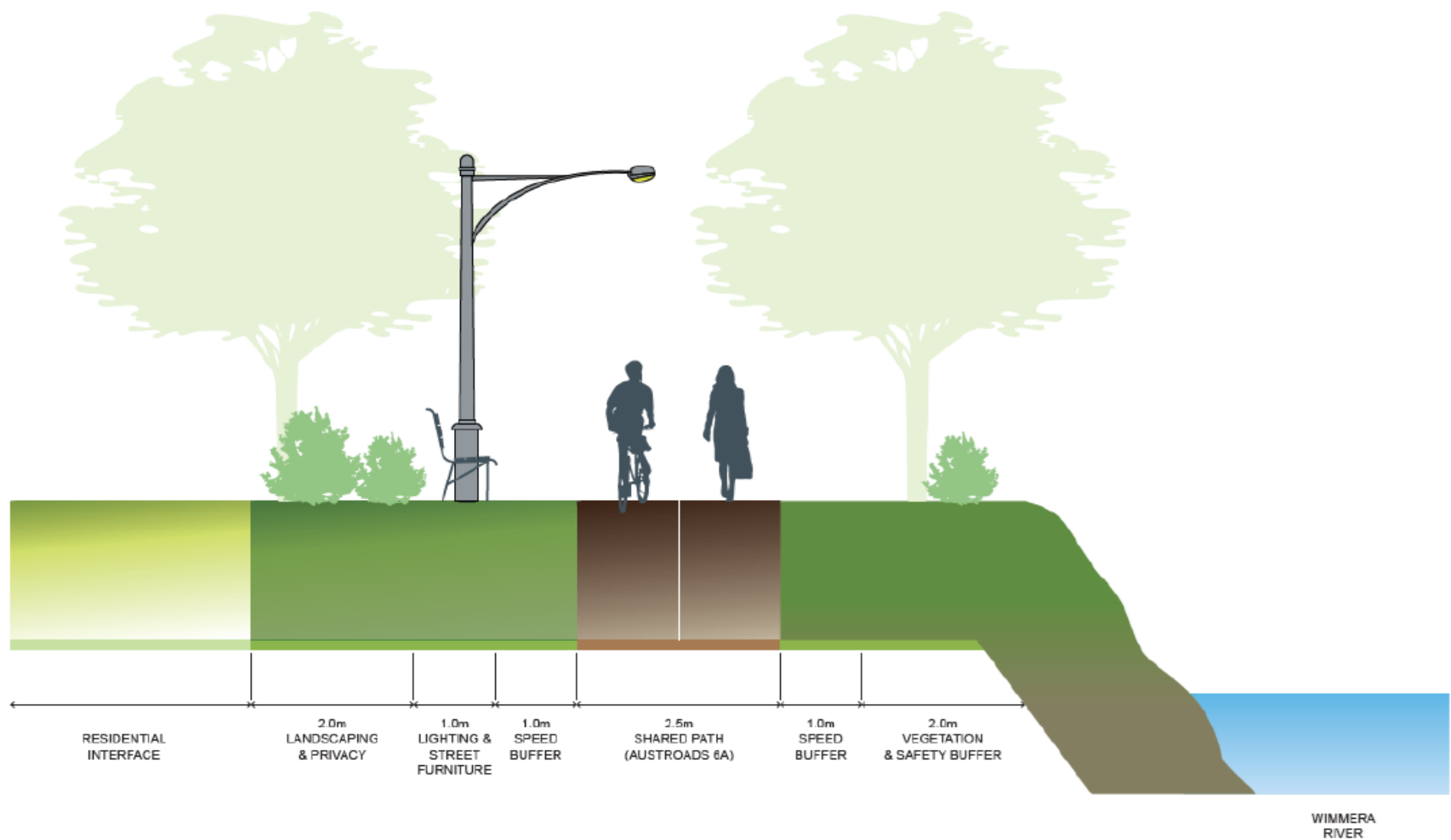
**APPENDIX IV:  
WIMMERA RIVER CORRIDOR  
PLAN DOCUMENTS**

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# SHARED PATH STANDARDS



## **APPENDIX V: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION – KEY FINDINGS**

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# KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<b>Horsham has a strong community feel and a great sense of freedom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horsham residents see the township as a great place to raise a family, with small schools and good childcare creating feelings of safety, and the ability to know a lot of people in the community. Family and mateship is valued, and there are many opportunities to be involved in clubs and special interest groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bigger picture - Horsham is a regional centre and hub. While many surrounding towns are getting smaller, Horsham is progression from a town to a city in terms of attitude. Council will need to keep investing in facilities such as health and wellbeing amenities to service this shift.</li> </ul>
<b>The town and its Open Space, needs revitalisation to ensure it meets growing needs and changing demands.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone we spoke to during the qualitative phase of this project suggests that there are some great places to relax, play and be active but they all need to be aligned and invested in to enhance their use, usability and to fully benefit the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital Budgets will need to incorporate significant uplift in investment for the long term and the city will explore some partnerships to broaden investment in open space to improve utilisation, and the health of Horsham and District Residents.</li> </ul>
<b>The iconic assets need regeneration and investment.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no doubt that HRCC and the region has some incredible assets at its fingertips, yet many are underinvested in, under appreciated and under utilised.</li> <li>Talking to residents and stakeholders, many recognise the wonderful assets the city has at its fingertips – the river, ovals, parks, lakes, climbing assets – yet they are not linked.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This open space strategy must align with the HRCC, Tourism, Sport and Rec and the Horsham CAD and Wimmera Precinct Plan. Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility for the River Precinct would be determined as a result of the conducting of an independent feasibility study which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site).</li> <li>A capital investment Master Plan for open space that spans at least 10 years should be implemented.</li> </ul>

# KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<b>The Entry/Exits to Horsham need rejuvenation.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of our first observations was the underwhelming nature of the entry and exits to Horsham and its Districts. Many towns and cities around Australia are taking an active and visual approach to their town or city entry/exits. HRCC should do the same; the City should be proud of itself.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRCC should investigate an entry/exit rejuvenation program including: signage, amenities, related assets as well as history and Indigenous recognition.</li> </ul>
<b>Some of the city's key assets seem closed most of the time/day.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What surprised the reviewers is that many of the city's key assets appear to be closed off to the general public, and it is difficult for residents to find usage times and/or their rights to use some of them outside of clubs or leasee's rights.</li> <li>Council must recognise that not everyone wants to play sport. What unstructured physical activity and active recreation opportunities can be publicised, introduced and encouraged?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post this Open Space review, we recommend a website or portal review to uplift communication and community awareness of key council and community open space assets and their amenities.</li> <li>Greater levels of promotion of the abundance of natural open spaces across the municipality to those that typically would not use them (e.g. mountain biking, walking and fishing) is required.</li> </ul>
<b>Existing infrastructure is ageing, and the iconic assets of the region must be uplifted.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council's recent investment into upgrading the Town Hall and aquatic centre has been well received by the community, however there is still more work to be done.</li> <li>Council should be proud of the number of assets within its control and those that are run by other relevant bodies and clubs. There is no doubt the city could celebrate and be prouder of its assets.</li> <li>Anecdotally there are enough sports grounds to service demand, but many have aged facilities and need to be revitalised.</li> <li>In addition, many will say the majority of playgrounds don't have enough shade or additional amenities to increase usage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council must develop a list of iconic assets that must be strongly enhanced – or partnered with for reinvestment.</li> <li>The current Sport Facilities and Demand study must align with the Open Space Strategy. Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility for the River Precinct would be determined as a result of the conducting of an independent feasibility study which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site).</li> <li>The playground hierarchy will assist with future investment allocation decisions.</li> </ul>

# KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<b>Tree canopy and shade – including rest/relaxation spaces are lacking in the CAD.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Reviewers believe that there is simply not enough tree canopy or shade in the Horsham CAD – and given the climate throughout the year, a long-term tree/vegetation plan is required.</li> <li>Many residents drive their car around the town rather than walking between spots/shops because they say it is just “too hot to walk.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 10-15 year capital investment tree canopy plan is required, along with additional rest/relaxation places in the CAD.</li> </ul>
<b>Developer Contributions = the HRCC requirements are too low for modern development and lifestyles.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many councils are now reviewing their requirements across the state and the contribution requirements in some LGA’s is nearing 10%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is our recommendation that the open space developer contributions needs to increase in HRCC to a minimum of 6%. Should the city wish to be a leader in this, 10% should be the future benchmark.</li> </ul>
<b>Underlying premise that Universal Design Principles are considered for all projects.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councils around Victoria and Australia are not looking into mandatory use of these principles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Reviewers recommend that Universal Design Principles are not mandatory but are considered in a practical and pragmatic way for all projects.</li> </ul>



# KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Key Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<b>An underlying connection to a wonderful river and lakes system is not overt to the rest of Victoria.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While Horsham is described as a harsh environment by some residents, on its doorstep is an amazing river and river front and a wonderful lake system that is slowly being realised. However, some would suggest that outside of the region itself, it is not widely known for its water system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In conjunction with GWM Water and local tourism bodies, invest in a tourism strategy or campaign to raise the profile of the region's great water and fishing assets.</li> </ul>
<b>A rock climbing mecca at your fingertips.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Grampians and the wider HRCC is known as a climbing mecca and Natimuk is a town where many climbers are now living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Position Natimuk and (Horsham more broadly) as the gateway to Mount Arapiles, an internationally important rock climbing destination.</li> </ul>
<b>Many natural areas and open spaces don't have the right mix of assets and amenities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Open Space audit has identified a series of gaps and needs for all the HRCC assets. The Open Space hierarchy will assist in decision-making in the future.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 10 year capital improvement plan needs to be developed.</li> </ul>

# KEY FINDINGS

Key Observation	Evidence/Insight	Strategic Recommendation
<b>Indigenous story-telling is missing.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The reviewers found that the CAD, its assets and the outlying towns and assets lack strong Indigenous storytelling that reflects a cultural respect.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Every major asset and/or place must have visual and written recognition of the traditional Indigenous landowners.</li><li>A separate piece of work will be required to accelerate this around the HRCC RAP Plan.</li></ul>

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# **ASSET OBSERVATIONS**

# ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<b>The Wimmera River – the Icon Centrepiece</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along with Mount Arapiles, the Wimmera River is the natural centrepiece of the town and city. It should be the most visible asset, yet is almost hidden as you enter and exit the city precinct.</li> <li>The River Precinct is somewhat underutilised, and has the potential to be a destination for recreational and social enjoyment.</li> <li>Spaces that enhance interaction and family time (e.g. Adventure Island and Weir Park) are already there but greater linkage to the rest of the township is needed to enhance usage and accessibility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where feasible and possible, opening up the river front to more activity, more linkages, and more interaction with the community is a must.</li> <li>Longer term a restaurant/café is a requirement to draw people to this wonderful part of Victoria.</li> </ul>
<b>Mt. Arapiles – the 2<sup>nd</sup> icon for HRCC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mount Arapiles is an internationally significant rock climbing destination with an enduring appeal drawing thousands of visitors from around the world each year.</li> <li>Along with the Wimmera River, this is perhaps the most iconic asset in the HRCC, yet it is not as well recognised as the Grampians by the broader Victorian community.</li> <li>This site is very significant to Traditional Owners, and their aspirations are set out in their Country Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support BGLC and Parks Victoria as land managers in working with visitors and the community to promote greater awareness, understanding and protection of the cultural values of the site, whilst retaining appropriate sustainable and internationally significant rock climbing opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Arapiles Big Sky Bicycle Trail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermittently talked about by the community and stakeholders through this project, it is a sleeping opportunity.</li> <li>This trail should form a key plank of the regional tourism strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater levels of promotion of this asset is required to enhance visitation.</li> </ul>

# ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<b>City Oval and Sawyer Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again, many would say these are an underutilised asset – particularly City Oval – and it is only the domain of football and cricket.</li> <li>• While Sawyer Park has had some investment in recent times, the whole site needs completion to increase usability and comfort.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refinements of a Master Plan that incorporates and opens up City Oval – and Sawyer Park – which then leverages the river frontage to its maximum is recommended.</li> <li>• The reviewers believe that the long term relocation of the Caravan Park needs to be thought through and must align with the Horsham CAD and Wimmera Precinct Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Police Paddock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Again an underappreciated and underutilised asset. It has 'great bones' but needs additional investment to round it out. It is a 'sneaky' fishing spot for some.</li> <li>• It does lack a clear bike lane linkage and needs to cater for a wider base of user groups. There is great potential here to connect Police Paddock (and North Horsham) to the river.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a gap analysis based on the asset audit and identify top 2-3 recommendations.</li> <li>• Breaking down perceptions of the area to encourage more people to visit must be considered – and a name change to something more inviting has been pushed by the broader township. There is more to consider here, including a relevant Indigenous connection and name.</li> </ul>
<b>Dudley Cornell</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consensus would be this park is trying to over-provide with too little space. It needs investment, it lacks adequate parking and modern amenities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletics must find a new home and the park should be used for broader lifestyle and recreational use by local residents.</li> </ul>



# ASSET OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<b>VicTrack Land</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without a doubt an eye sore, and it continues to be a 'missed' opportunity (and we recognize the environmental challenges of the site). There is much to play out here as the site requires heavy remediation.</li> <li>Strategically acquiring this asset will change the dynamics of the township. It is the missing 'link' to bring the North of Horsham closer to the CAD both visually and dynamically.</li> <li>The Railway Corridor is ready for a transformation and has the potential to provide the East/West connectivity and alleviate the barrier between North and South Horsham.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue this opportunity to its completion. Long term this will provide a wonderful asset or linkage for the Horsham community if it can be realised.</li> </ul>
<b>May Park</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widely talked about and known –the major missing piece is some additional lighting as some will suggest that this path can be unsafe at times or within the confines of one "dark" pocket.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As soon as practical, upgrade lighting to improve the perceived after-dark safety aspect of this key community asset.</li> </ul>
<b>The Showgrounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Its relationship with the CAD and surroundings is disjointed. The Greyhounds track is unpleasant to look at and possibly should be moved. We realise there is much discussion to play out here.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Reviewer recommends that in conjunction with the Showgrounds Committee of Management, a 10 year strategy is developed for this precinct. The objective should be to open up this asset to the community 24/7.</li> <li>Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility located in the Showgrounds would be determined as a result of the conducting of a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site)</li> </ul>

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<b>Blue Ribbon Raceway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The speedway is 19.3km from the CAD. While a useful precinct and asset (and rightly so) out of town, there is a potential option for another asset to be housed here in the longer term.</li> <li>Note: limited feedback to date from stakeholders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No specific action is determined at this stage, given its proximity from the town.</li> </ul>
<b>The Velodrome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Horsham Cycling Club currently has six active members and has not had growth to the membership base for some time.</li> <li>The velodrome is used daily by recreational users including dog walkers, triathletes and many of the local schools.</li> <li>The track will need resurfacing in the next 5-6 years which will be an investment of approximately \$200,000.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council should investigate opportunities to incorporate this site into the development of an indoor/outdoor sports precinct.</li> <li>Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility located in the Showgrounds would be determined as a result of the conducting of a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site)</li> </ul>
<b>Racecourse Reserve</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current usage: HDRC: 2 days at 4 hours per day, 3 race meets per year; HHRC: 2 training per week times 4 hours (each week, 10 race meets a year (includes 2 major meets).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horsham Harness Racing and the Horsham District Racing Club are open to solutions to enable more community access. It is critical to protect the quality of the track.</li> <li>Given recent investment in the site and the estimated replication costs of \$50-\$100 million, the club should stay in its current location.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From a council perspective, building a closer relationship with these clubs – and building and refining the current community footprint at this major site is for strong consideration.</li> </ul>

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Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<b>Horsham Greyhound Racing Club</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Stats: \$1.3 million upgrade but 12 months on the track</li> <li>\$2.9 million last 10 years</li> <li>Training runs being investigated on the far-side.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well utilised facilities – albeit under the radar and with little external community engagement. North West Victoria is a hub of Greyhound activity for the sport. There are now only two metropolitan Greyhound tracks in operation, so regional Victoria is the focus of growth for the sport.</li> <li>As it sits currently, the track site and facility do not integrate well in to the full site – and the abutment to the highway is an eye-sore.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short term recommendations: improve the street scape and roadside visualisation of the club.</li> <li>Inside the site has been invested in, options for “flipping” the track to move it away from the highway should be considered in the medium to longer term.</li> </ul>
<b>Horsham Racing Club</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consensus would be that greater community, council and township engagement is required. Weekly activity is ongoing and an up-and-coming trainer lives and works in the region.</li> <li>Timing of their events is not optimal and some longer term considerations for moving one of the key race meets should be on the radar of decision makers. Track relocation requires a <u>significant</u> capital investment (\$50-\$100 million) and there are better investments to consider for the longer term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wherever possible, council should engage strongly with the HRC. To relocate the track is an investment of \$50 million - \$100 million. Shorter-term consideration to bolster the 3 events and engage the community and township.</li> <li>Improving the ‘in-field’ fields should be considered in alignment with the sports facilities demand study.</li> </ul>
<b>Horsham Harness Racing Club</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well utilised facilities and there is demand to increase the number of events. In 2018, this was the only club/centre to grow in Victoria.</li> <li>Again a growth corridor is the North-West of the state. Horsham is the heartbeat and trainers and riders do come from South Australia and NSW as well as many parts of Victoria.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to the Racing Club, this is an undervalued activity centre.</li> <li>Short-term, council needs to engage with the club to bolster engagement with the community.</li> <li>Medium/longer-term – improve and invest in the inner-field asset for extra football (soccer) or athletics.</li> </ul>

# VERBATIM COMMENTS

"Horsham is the regional centre. If you can't get something elsewhere within a 100km radius you can come to Horsham and get it – it's a very resourceful area, and has a diverse range of businesses."

"Future priorities should be about opening up our assets, providing greater access to our facilities to other community groups and users rather than just the same old football, netball and cricket."

"We have a lot of single use, one dimensional facilities...there are no physical linkages between our assets."

"City Oval is not the city's...it's really just the Horsham Demons ground. It's not 'city' oval."

"We don't have visibility of what is on at City Oval and we would have to go through Council. But we wouldn't know when it is available outside of football and cricket times."

"What do and can community groups use and when? What access do they potentially have and what assets?"

"The big issue is transportation. It's not easy for people to get from one point to another if you don't have a car."

"Sports are still very important for rural areas, but you also need places where you can just relax."

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## **ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS**



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Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<b>Linkages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated and signed pedestrian and cycle linkages are needed to connect the whole city. Given Horsham's flat terrain, the city should become a cycle-based city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated, signed cycling and walking routes are needed, not only from a safety perspective, but also to encourage broader physical activity and active transport in the region.</li> <li>A city wide cycling and running/walking strategy is required.</li> <li>This all needs to form part of the HRCC Urban Transport Network Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Civic Spaces</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared civic and community spaces within walking distance of the CAD are certainly missing.</li> <li>There is a distinct lack of public town squares, useful civic spaces and shaded seating areas within the CAD where people can sit and enjoy their lunch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Town Square or community garden idea has been talked about, with potential to use the vacant block of land opposite Coles. That said, there is no real central part of the CAD that represents the heart and soul of Horsham.</li> <li>Short-term, a canopy and shade strategy needs to incorporate access to water and water features.</li> </ul>
<b>Schools – a missing piece to Open Space access.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While the schools and Education department have not been formally engaged through this project, it is a discussion point emerging in all, if not many, LGA's.</li> <li>There are wonderful school based assets that are underutilised, and with some forward thinking that is aligned to community needs, should be realised in the medium term.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sport and Rec department at HRCC should engage with the top 2-3 schools in the town to open engagement about a pilot program for community use.</li> <li>Likewise, there are schools in the region that could benefit from using City Oval at times.</li> </ul>

# ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<b>Dadswell Bridge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This township should be the celebration that you have arrived in one of Victoria's most iconic areas: the Wimmera and Horsham.</li> <li>It is just so underwhelming on the left of the Highway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A long term revitalisation strategy for this part of the region will require a staged approach – and there must be a story about its significance and history to the region.</li> </ul>
<b>East Horsham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The primary feedback from residents and stakeholders is the lack of connectivity across the river to the 3 local schools. It is a major safety concern as well.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another pedestrian bridge needs to be built across either Baillie or Hamilton Streets near the 'three schools' (St Brigids, Lutheran and Horsham 298) to enhance safety and access.</li> </ul>
<b>North Horsham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The major observation is that the North of Horsham, a low socioeconomic area, is seriously underserved by publicly accessible and activated open space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An increase in open space provision in this area, aligned with the Open Space Contribution policy is needed.</li> <li>Existing open space must be activated with community amenities such as barbecues, picnic tables, public toilets at Police Paddocks and Langland's Park.</li> </ul>

# ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Asset	Key Observation	Strategic Consideration
<b>West Horsham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area of the City has been spoken about as a potential 'green-field' site for an indoor/outdoor sports hub which would service the number of schools and education institutions within close proximity (approximately 950 students).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any future consideration of a regional indoor/outdoor sports facility in Horsham West would be determined as a result of the conducting of a feasibility study independently which considers Crown Land Showgrounds site and the Horsham West option (Jenkinson Avenue site).</li> </ul>
<b>Haven and South Horsham</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the growth corridor of Horsham and in some parts, new housing developments have proceeded with poor consideration of open space due to the lack of an open space contributions policy.</li> <li>Haven is a tight-knit community, and the recreation reserve and primary school serve as a central hub and recreation space for local residents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear directions in the Planning Scheme and an Open Space Contributions Policy is critical to ensure that open spaces are made a priority in the southern growth corridor.</li> <li>A 10 year Masterplan of the Haven Recreation Reserve including walking and cycle linkages to the Horsham CAD should be developed.</li> </ul>

# VERBATIM COMMENTS

"The sound shell is the only open space performance area in Horsham. We need to encourage more arts and cultural performances. Could have graffiti art, sculptures, live music all along the river front."

"To see Haven now compared to 40 years ago, you wonder how many years down the track it will be until more services start to go South of the river."

"While the die-hard local might think we don't need [assets like the Town Hall and Aquatic Centre], once they do happen, people embrace it. You hear all the comments... *we should have had this years ago ... seeing my grandkids up on stage is so exciting.*"

"I certainly think a Town Square or civic space in the CBD would be great. There is a dirt carpark in Roberts Avenue, opposite the Coles carpark, which I always thought would be a great community open space or garden."

"Linkages are great along the river and down to the Weir, but there is nothing up near the Riverside precinct and the three schools – Lutheran, Horsham 298 and St Brigids."

"The sporting facilities in Horsham are great. My kids both play basketball and the stadium has good capacity that can cope with all the basketball tournaments."

"Every school, primary or secondary, should be surrounded by sports facilities. If you have good access to facilities and good programs for kids after school they will come."

"Horsham is very dark and lighting is a problem along the river. People don't feel safe. We need more lights for people that want to exercise early in the morning or late at night."





Unit 3, 456 High Street,  
Pahran, VIC  
3181  
[www.sportbusiness.com.au](http://www.sportbusiness.com.au)