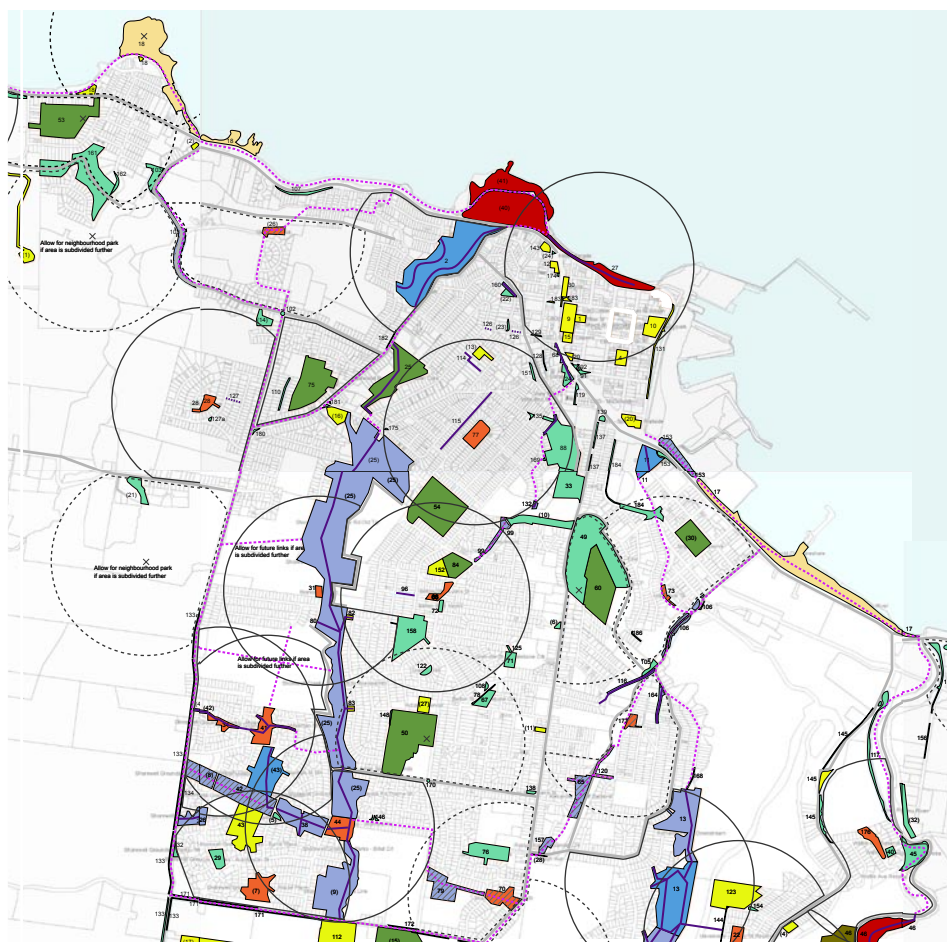




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Burnie Open Space Development Strategy

Prepared for the City of Burnie



As adopted by Council

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Inspiring Place

Burnie Open Space Development Strategy

prepared for
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The City of Burnie lies on the northwest coast of Tasmania (Map 1.1). The City's *Strategic Plan* states that the vision of the City of Burnie is to strive to be a "progressive and vibrant community" and that its mission is to deliver on this vision through its services, programs and facilities. Important amongst the goals, outcomes and strategies supporting the vision and mission is the emphasis placed on "ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment where the community's social and physical well-being" are enhanced (Goal 3)¹.

Amongst the many delivery mechanisms for achieving this goal are:

- promotion of sustainable management of the City's natural resources, in part, through the maintenance and enhancement of urban spaces;

- the care for the City's beaches, coastlines, waterways and cultural sites (including the visual values of the urban landscape);

- the protection of catchment areas;

- the maintenance and enhancement of open space and recreational facilities to meet community needs for active and passive recreation;

- development of a coordinated transport network for pedestrians and cyclists; and

- the implementation of asset management plans.

Central to these delivery mechanisms is a well-developed and effectively maintained system of public open space, which in Burnie represents ~600 hectares of land (less than 1% of the municipality). Although representing a relatively small land area, Council's open space network is generally well located and managed to serve the diverse needs of the community.

¹ Burnie City Council *Strategic Plan 2006-2011*. See [http://www.burnie.net/html/Strategic-Plan-2006-2011\(1\).pdf](http://www.burnie.net/html/Strategic-Plan-2006-2011(1).pdf) (accessed 30.09.08).



Council has long recognised the value of its open space assets, commissioning a *Preliminary Open Space Management Plan* in 1994².

Over recent years, Council has undertaken a range of projects aimed at furthering the effective management of its open space network. Amongst the projects undertaken or planned are:

master plans for West Park³, Burnie Park⁴, the Fern Glade Reserve⁵ and the Burnie Waterfront⁶;

upgrading of a number of major indoor and outdoor sporting facilities⁷;

relocation of the skate park to the western side of West Park including expansion of the area available for skating and improvements to the quality of the skating experience (2007);

development of service level plans for the maintenance of open space areas under Council ownership or care; and

assessment of the safety of the playgrounds within the City⁸.

A recreation strategy⁹ was also prepared for the city, and whilst not adopted as a Council policy it has, nonetheless, been used to inform strategies and decision making about the provision of recreation facilities, facility programming and open space management within the city.

During 2008-2009 a draft regional open space plan ¹⁰ was prepared for the nine local councils within the Cradle Coast region. This plan provides a planning framework and strategies to improve open space planning and provision within the region.

² Jerry de Gryse Pty Ltd and Hepper Marriott Tasmania Pty Ltd 1994. *Preliminary Open Space Management Plan for the City of Burnie* unpublished report to the City of Burnie.

³ Moore Consulting 2008. *West Park Precinct Strategy and Master Plan*, unpublished report to the Burnie City Council

⁴ Inspiring Place Pty Ltd 2001. *"Burnie Park Management Plan* unpublished report to the Burnie City Council.

⁵ Inspiring Place Pty Ltd 2006. *"Fernglade Recreation and Conservation Reserve Management Plan"* unpublished report to the Burnie City Council.

⁶ Taylor Cullity Lethlean 2008. *"Burnie Waterfront Development Planning Submission"* unpublished report to the Burnie City Council

⁷ See http://www.burnie.net/html/20080829-Sports_funding.pdf

⁸ Hutchinson, R. 2008. *Untitled review of play equipment* prepared for the Burnie City Council

⁹ HM Leisure Planning Pty Ltd, Inspiring Place Pty Ltd, Prior + Cheney Architects and David Powick and Associates 2003. *"Burnie City Council Recreation Plan and Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study"* Unpublished report to the Burnie City Council.

¹⁰ *Draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan*, @leisure

1.2 THE CURRENT STUDY

Whilst the above plans and projects give some direction to the achievement of Council's vision and mission in respect of its Goal 3, there is a need for an up to date strategy for the management of open space generally and a particular need for guidelines for the distribution and purpose of various open spaces and the provision of facilities (i.e. amenities, equipment, structures, access, paths, parking, etc.) within its open spaces.

These requirements have been the impetus for the current study that aims to:

- review the current situation within the open space system;

- develop a management strategy for the City's open space and particularly for the provision of facilities within its open spaces;
and

- provide direction for the development of the City's open space system within the context of Council's capacities to deliver quality outcomes.

The report:

- sets out the *approach* taken to the development of the *Open Space Development Strategy* including the methodology for the survey of Council's open spaces and the general structure adopted (Chapter 1);

- identifies the recreation and open space *context* within which the Strategy has been developed including demographic and recreation trends and assessment of open space needs (Chapter 2);

- outlines a range of issues for open space management that cross all open space categories (Chapter 3);

- sets out a *policy framework* for open space management to guide the future planning, management, maintenance and improvement of open space within Burnie over the next 10 years (Chapter 4);

- outlines a strategic assessment of open space needs (Chapter 5);
and

- identifies a range of recommended actions by open space category of open space and considers cost and resource implications (Chapter 6).

The current report is supported by four appendices:

Appendix A – the site inventory which lists each of the properties examined as part of the current study;

Appendix B – an example of the site survey form completed for each of the properties listed in Appendix A;

Appendix C – a description of the eight categories of open space used to group the above properties including a definition for the category, the purpose of the category, the amenities that should be provided in each instance, the indicative sizes of parcels in each category and the management issues often found with the management of the open space category; and

Appendix D – the process for assessing the suitability of open space that might be acquired by Council.

The original report was presented to Council in December 2008 for review. During 2009 the Council asked Inspiring Place to upgrade the strategic review based on additional information and changed circumstances to the management of some of Council's land. In particular, all Council land previously set aside for water and sewerage is being transferred to the new regional authority Cradle Water to manage. The *draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan* has also been prepared and provides some direction and policies for open space at the regional and council level.

Consequently the original report has been revised to take account of the above situation and in particular to:

further the needs analysis to meet current and future demands for open space in the city;

undertake a gap analysis comparing location, function and current stage of development of existing open space;

suggest actions/opportunities to address any deficiencies including development of land, acquisition, use of alternative land stock (partnership arrangements) etc;

the impacts of the Water and Sewerage Reform and consequential loss of open space and management of land transferred to the new regional authority; and

identify cost and resourcing implications for Council to bridge the gaps between supply and identified need.

1.3 PROJECT APPROACH

1.3.1 General Approach to the Project

Consistent with the brief for the project, the approach to the project has been in five stages, these being:

Stage 1 - Project start-up and fieldwork;

Stage 2 - Issues and needs assessment;

Stage 3 – Open space development strategy;

Stage 4 – Community exhibition and review; and

Stage 5 – Project organisation and reporting.

An extensive consultation program has not been undertaken given that:

known leisure trends and recreation participation surveys and benchmarking of provision elsewhere provide a strong basis for some decision making;

detailed consultation was undertaken during the preparation of the *Recreation Plan and Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study*, which provided useful background to the current study;

similar consultation for like communities elsewhere has given consistent results for community needs and demands for parks, reserves and open space systems that are likely to be similar in Burnie; and

local community review of the proposed strategy through a public exhibition and questionnaire will occur prior to adoption of the *Open Space Strategy* by Council.

1.3.2 Open Space Survey

All open space parcels identified by Council to the Study Team (Appendix A) were visited at the commencement of the *Open Space Development Strategy* process. A survey form was completed for most sites (Appendix B). The surveys built on and extended the previous work undertaken:

by Ray Hutchinson (provided as part of the brief) which reviewed the condition of playground equipment throughout the city; and

as part of the *Recreation Plan and Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study*.

The survey of each parcel conducted for the current study included:

- brief descriptions of key attributes and constraints;
- general assessments of appearance, accessibility, facilities, safety and maintenance;
- overall assessments of recreation, conservation and amenity values;
- recommendations for management actions;
- a checklist of future options as to the maintenance, upgrading, disposal, rationalisation, etc. of the site; and
- photographs of each site.

Copies of the survey forms and photographs have been provided to Council.

Any land areas that was previously managed by Council but will be transferred to Cradle Water have been excluded from the inventory for open space.

1.3.3 Classification of Open Spaces

In the current study, the open space areas within the City of Burnie have been categorised into different types that are generic in nature so as to indicate their broad purposes and potentials rather than to specify particular uses (Appendix C). As such, categories allow varying management responses over time in relation to recreation needs, asset protection, habitat protection, services provision, etc.

1.3.4 Review of Past Reports

A brief overview of past reports, that support and guide development of open space within the City, has been undertaken as part of the current study. Such reports include broad regional and local area policy documents and site-specific plans and strategies. The findings of the review are summarised at Section 2.5.

1.4 LIMITATIONS

The project has, by necessity of its budget, focused on the categorisation and hierarchy of open spaces. The report, therefore, significantly summarises the background to recreation and open space management in the City, referring to more expansive studies undertaken previously and highlighting only the most significant points that have affected the recommendations herein and for each category of management.

Of importance, the current study is an analysis of the current system as it addresses perceived needs or those known at the time of previous reports (most notably the *Recreation Strategy 2003*). The current study has not had the resources to examine in greater depth the current open space needs as might be determined through user group workshops, detailed community consultation and/or focus groups.

Further, only limited time has been devoted to the inspection and assessment of the known properties due to the number of sites involved and budget constraints. Accordingly, detailed management prescriptions for each land holding are not provided but rather prescriptions for the grouped categories of land. These groupings provide strategic direction for the overall management of Council's land holdings. Council will need to undertake further planning and consultation in order to develop specific response for any one park or reserve.

Finally, the Brief called for readily available information to be sought on the cost of installed playground equipment and/or other benchmarks for the provision of play equipment by local government. A web based search was made for such information in Australia which provided some limited information, however, the widely varying geographical size, population and accounting methods of those municipalities for which data is available made cross comparison impossible.



Foreshore open space is one of the key defining characteristics of Burnie as a livable City

CHAPTER 2

OPEN SPACE CONTEXT

This chapter provides an outline of the natural and cultural setting of the City (Section 2.1), a demographic profile of the City (Section 2.2), an outline of trends affecting open space provision (Section 2.3), a review of the planning provisions affecting open space (Section 2.4) and a review of previous reports (Section 2.5).

2.1 NATURAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

The *1994 Preliminary Open Space Strategy* provided a detailed description of the physical, biological and cultural features of the City. The principle factors arising from that analysis affecting open space development and management in the present are:

climate – the temperate maritime climate of the City is conducive to outdoor recreation pursuits at all times of year;

geology, geomorphology, soils and hydrology –

the underlying geology poses no constraints on open space development,

land slip along the escarpment to Bass Strait is a concern that needs to be addressed in considering the development of open spaces in slip-prone areas,

development activities need to consider the prevention of soil erosion as all soils in the City have erosion risks, and

management of open spaces needs to also address the control of run-off to prevent degradation of water quality or the unnecessary concentration of stormwater that might lead to erosion;

flora and fauna – the City's open spaces include substantive tracts of remnant native vegetation that have significant value that needs to be conserved appropriately including:

having important values in and of themselves,

providing important habitat for a range of flora and fauna species and communities including those that are important for their rarity,

having value for its contribution to the character of the City and in particular to its landscape values,

having value to the contemporary Aboriginal community, and

being representative of the types of vegetation that occurred throughout the area prior to European settlement;

cultural heritage – the City's open spaces have social value in themselves for their long history as community points of reference and in places incorporate features that have archaeological or historic importance for their contribution to the understanding of the history of the City and require appropriate management for these reasons.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Council's website¹¹ gives a snapshot of the demographics of the City in 2008 stating that:

its population is 19,059 (9192 males, 9867 females)

its age profiles is:

0 - 19 years 23.1%

20 - 65 years 64.6%

over 65 years 12.3%

the total number of dwellings is 8,238

More detailed information can be gleaned from the Bureau of Statistics census of 2006. At that time, the total population of the City of Burnie excluding overseas visitors was 19,057, which represented a growth of 912 people from the 2001 census reversing the trend of population decline, which was occurring since 1986. The population aged between 0 and 24 has remained relatively constant however Burnie does have the highest percentage of persons (34.3%) aged 24 years and under in the Cradle Coast region. The 25 to 64 age group has increased by 1149 and the age group over 65 years has increased by 720 - clearly demonstrating an aging population.

¹¹ See http://www.burnie.net/html/931_929.htm

The Burnie population is expected to increase over the next 25 years with an annual population growth rate of 0.6%, which is above the annual population growth rate for the Cradle Coast region¹².

The majority of working people in the City of Burnie use cars, trucks or motorbikes to get to work (93%). A small proportion of people (4%) walked to work and less than 1% rode their bike or used other methods such as bus, train or taxi.

51% of the population over the age of 15 years are employed full or part time, while ~5% are unemployed. 44% are not in the labour force or have not stated their status. 63% of the working population work full time (41% male and 22% female) and 30% work part time (22% being female and 9% male). The remainder is away from work or did not state their status. This demonstrates that far more women are working part time and unemployment levels are relatively low.

Of significance in the above discussion is the general need for open space to meet the requirements of the population for outdoor, lifestyle activities whether they be organised sport, informal recreation or general fitness and that community needs and demographic trends should be periodically reviewed to ensure contemporary needs are met.

More specifically the aging of the population emphasises a greater need to ensure that pedestrian connections in and around community facilities are provided, that new aged care facilities consider pedestrian linkages to passive open space areas, and that urban paths are constructed to a standard that is accessible to mobility impaired people (i.e. even surfaces, and of easy grades).

The ageing population trend may also mean a future rationalisation of traditional sporting facilities, and an increase in the provision of quality passive open space areas, in which walking for health and relaxation can be undertaken, and which can be accessed easily by pedestrians. However, it should be noted that higher levels of leisure participation are also occurring as the 'baby boomers' progress into these age groups which could tend to counter-balance the seemingly lessening need for traditional sporting facilities based on aging alone.

¹² Preliminary Population Projections, Tasmania Demographic Change Council, May 2008

2.3 TRENDS AFFECTING OPEN SPACE PROVISION

The following is a summary of national socio-economic, open space and recreational trends affecting open space provision in Australia.

Trends	Implication
Socio-economic	
<p><u>Economic</u></p> <p>Changing employment structures, trading hours and work hours e.g.: higher employment of women; increased part-time and casual employment; seven day trading. Improved technology, which has allowed information to be more readily accessible by the wider community, including from private residences and phones.</p> <p>An increased propensity for individuals and companies to take legal action on a wide range of issues.</p>	<p><u>Economic</u></p> <p>These changes have tended to reduce the demand for structured team sports facilities, has led to significant changes in when sporting activities are played, and generated greater informal use of recreation opportunities across wider periods of the day and week.</p> <p>There has been a noticeable shift in competitive sports to weeknights with weekends being kept free for unstructured activities.</p> <p>This change has allowed a dramatic growth in home-based leisure activities with a parallel loss in participation in traditional sport and recreation activities. At the same time however, technology has allowed the community to become more aware of other sporting and recreation facilities, services, and opportunities</p> <p>The increase in legal action has had positive and negative outcomes. From a positive perspective, the threat of action has led to an increased focus on good design, user safety and risk management such that avoidable injuries have been reduced. However, the negative outcome has been that escalating public liability premiums have become a major concern for land managers, clubs and groups. The rising costs of insurance and the occasional inability to obtain it threaten to limit the range of recreational activities available to the community in the future, lead to higher costs of participation and higher standards for safety and costs for liabilities arising from accidents. Increasing litigiousness has also impacted upon the sourcing volunteers to act in administrative roles for clubs and groups.</p>

Trends	Implication
<p>Socio-economic</p> <p><u>Social/Cultural</u></p> <p>Growing recognition of the strong links between recreation involvement and health (e.g. preventative health care, active healthy lifestyle programs).</p> <p>Greater demand for a diversity of leisure opportunities and a stronger emphasis on the quality of the experience of open space is also emerging.</p> <p>Growing recognition of the importance and value of the environment as an ecological, cultural, recreational, tourism, economic, educational and research resource.</p>	<p><u>Social/Cultural</u></p> <p>Recognition of the health benefits of recreation is leading to increased government initiatives and programs to encourage recreation participation by targeted groups in activities, which deliver measurable health benefits to the community.</p> <p>Expectations for desired experience using open spaces suggests the need for higher standards of facilities, design, management and programming.</p> <p>Recognition of the value of the environment has strengthened demands for the protection of natural and heritage open space areas and their use for informal activities, such as walking, conservation studies, bird watching etc. It has also led to community pressure on agencies to allocate more resources to these areas and to manage natural and cultural resources on a sustainable basis.</p>
<p>Local Government Open Space Directions</p> <p>The demand for safe and accessible passive recreational areas, including parks, reserves and playgrounds is likely to increase in the future, given the continuing popularity of recreational walking and non-organised recreational activities in general.</p> <p>The shift towards non-organised activities is affecting the types of open spaces and the facilities provided in them that Councils need to provide.</p> <p>There is likely to be a shift over time towards more people living in higher density accommodation in urban areas, and the subsequent loss of personal outdoor space leading to greater demands on the open space network.</p>	<p>Currently, the Council is responsible for management of a number of parks and reserves throughout the municipal area, which are utilised to varying degrees for passive recreational pursuits. What will be important is not the number of open space areas, but the access to quality recreational experiences available within these existing open spaces and the need to meet gaps in provision where community need is not being met. The review of open space provision within the City suggests that upgrading of existing open space facilities should be a high priority especially those that can service both local residents and visitors e.g. foreshore locations. It is also important that the accessibility of open space areas is continually improved e.g. foreshore, riparian and trail connection within the City and between its suburbs.</p>

Trends	Implication
Recreation Participation	
<p><u>National Trends</u></p> <p>The following information has been summarised from the national <i>Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport</i>¹³ (ERAS) annual report for 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> walking (excluding bushwalking) had the highest participation rate out of all activities (42.1%), between both male (30.8%) and females (52.8%) other highly ranked activities¹⁴, in order of participation were: aerobic/fitness (16.3%), swimming (13.2%), bushwalking (10.5%), cycling (9.6%) and running (9.6%) in the 12 months prior to the 2008 survey, some 10.9% of respondents indicated that they participated in an activity or sport organised by a club up to once per week – 71.4% indicated that they had participated in any organised sport or physical activity between 1-5+ times per week and 17.3% had not participated at all the most highly ranked organised activities undertaken by respondents were aerobics, Australian rules football and football (outdoor) and for non-organised activities it was walking, aerobics/fitness, cycling, bushwalking and running. 	<p>The continued national popularity of walking ('walking for health') is a trend that is also evident among Tasmanian residents including the residents of Burnie. There is strong evidence from other Tasmanian municipalities of a demand for urban linkages that function as multi-use alternative transport routes and/or as loops for fitness, in association with open space areas.</p>

¹³ Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport (2007). It should be noted that the ERAS survey only includes participants who are 15 years and older.

¹⁴ These figures are based on participation at least once per year.

Trends	Implication
<p>Recreation Participation</p> <p><u>Regional and Local Trends</u></p> <p>Sport and Recreation Tasmania conducted a <i>Participation in Sport and Recreation Activities Survey</i>¹⁵ in 2002. The following information has been extracted from the summary report for the northwest region, which included Burnie.</p> <p>Burnie had the highest overall participation rate of 90.3%</p> <p>66% of survey respondents (for the entire region) indicated that they did not participate in formal (organised) sport and recreation activities, preferring non-organised activities with young people having the lowest interest in organised activities relying more on passive recreational pursuits</p> <p>recreational walking was the most popular activity for the entire region (55.7% of respondents), followed by fishing (20.5%), swimming/diving (19.5%), bushwalking (14.3%), gym-based fitness (12%), golf (11.6%) and cycling (10%)</p> <p>Consultation during the preparation of the <i>2003 Recreation Plan</i> revealed:</p> <p>parallels with national trends in terms of declining participation in organised sport at the player and volunteer level, although the influence of organised sport on local culture is still high in Burnie</p> <p>increasing demand for spontaneous leisure versus programmed activities</p>	<p>The overall decline in the popularity of organised sporting activities over informal recreation may result in Council having to shift its focus in relation to the provision and maintenance of sporting facilities in the future.</p> <p>However, it is recognised that traditional sporting activities such as football, cricket and netball remain popular among residents of the Burnie, and are important facets of the local culture.</p> <p>The significant statistical emphasis on recreational walking (more than twice the participation in any other activity) again suggests the need for a comprehensive network of trails throughout the City.</p> <p>The decline in the participation in organised sport suggests that some open spaces will have greater use for a range of activities rather than being dedicated to one use.</p>
<p>Development Trends in the City of Burnie</p>	
<p>Although population growth has been slow, there is, nonetheless, a growth in demand for housing that has led to the continuing expansion of residential development in the city, particularly, in more recent times, in the areas along Malonga Heights, Brickport Road and in upper Cooe Point along with other redevelopment/infill housing in established areas including an increasing amount of semi-detached housing and units, flats and apartments¹⁶.</p> <p>Economic growth, the changing lifestyle of the city has also led to pressures for the multi-use development of the foreshore particularly at West Park, Cooe Point and Camdale.</p>	<p>Growth in residential estates should be accompanied by the strategic development of neighbourhood parks and linkages to surrounding areas and major public facilities and open spaces.</p> <p>The sensitivity of the foreshore to development and community concerns surrounding proposals for these areas dictate that a considered approach be taken in each case that balances demands for economic return with the needs of the community for access to quality open spaces, regional linkages and the edge of the water.</p>

¹⁵ Office of Sport and Recreation (2002) *Participation in Sport and Recreation Activities in the North West of Tasmania*, Department of State Development.

¹⁶ See AEC Group 2007. "A Settlement and Investment Strategy for Burnie to 2026."

2.4 CITY OF BURNIE PLANNING SCHEME

The City of Burnie Planning Scheme defines Open Space, outlines the intention for open space and lists objectives for achieving the intention in Part 2. The Scheme further lists some general requirements and development standards in Part 3 as follows:

Intention

To provide land for open space purposes for recreation opportunities of both a passive and active nature.

Objectives

The land designated for open space purposes shall be used for either or both public and private recreation in such manner as to maintain a suitable environmental quality for recreational purposes.

The development of buildings in the open space zone shall only be permitted for the provision of support services to the activities referred to in Sub-Clause (a).

The designation of land for open space purposes does not necessarily signify existing or future public ownership or right of public access.

General Requirements of Zone 9 Open Space

This zone is primarily intended to:

- (a) encourage appropriate public use of lands for recreational purposes;
- (b) allow the development of both public and private land for open space purposes;
- (c) ensure the adequate provision of public open space throughout the City; and
- (d) protect the City's open space resources.

The Scheme also defines the development standards that are to be achieved in terms of the siting and design of facilities.

The Burnie Planning Scheme provides some very broad guidelines for the provision of open space within the municipality focusing on ownership, usage and building guidelines. It's general nature means that some important open space issues are not addressed. This current open space development strategy provides more explicit directions that are excluded from the Planning Scheme.

2.5 REVIEW OF PREVIOUS REPORTS

A cursory review of past reports, that support and guide development of open space within the City, has been undertaken as part of the current study. Such reports include broad regional and local area policy documents and site-specific plans and strategies. A review of the key aspects of these reports is provided below.

Draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan, @Leisure 2009

this plan provides a planning framework and strategies to improve open space planning and provision for Councils within the region

it provides a locality analysis for Burnie which identifies a general population and demographic profile, review of open space distribution, gaps in provision and opportunities (this information is presented and discussed in Section 2.6)

Draft North West Regional Planning Initiative 2009

intends to inform the process of developing a regional land use policy framework and the content of planning schemes for the Cradle Coast region

open space is one of the aspects being addressed including open space guidelines for assessing open space demand and need

Live Life, Get Moving, Tasmania Physical Activity Plan 2005-2010, Sport and Recreation Tasmania

aims to promote a whole of government and community approach to lifting physical activity and includes a number of broad goals covering open space

recognizes that local councils and communities have a major role in developing environments that support increased physical activity

Draft Healthy By Design, Heart Foundation and the Premier's Physical Activity Council, Tasmanian Government, 2008

outlines directions to help guide and encourage the design of healthy environments in the State

indicates the need for improving health and designing for healthy environments

recognizes open space as being of critical value to health

provides practices, case studies, planning and design guidelines to support active planning for health outcomes

City of Burnie Recreation Plan and Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study, HM Leisure Planning/Inspiring Place/Prior and Cheney Architects/David Powick and Associates 2003 -

the findings regarding recreation in the City from consultation and other analysis undertaken have informed the context for the current study (see Chapter 2) and the recommendations for some open spaces (Chapter 5) including the findings that;

the City has a mix of opportunities with provision across all the settings of leisure and recreation endeavour;

the quality of many assets is excellent and make good use of the natural character of the City;

there is an emphasis on single uses for some sporting reserves to the detriment of their potential for use by the wider local and regional community for other purposes;

there is a lack of support amenities at many sites e.g. public toilets, seats, shelter, information, paths and links; and

there are significant opportunities to add to the strength of the City's trails and coastal resources.

Settlement and Investment Strategy for the City of Burnie to 2026

Burnie has ample open space (20ha per 1000 people compared to the benchmark of 1ha per 1000 people¹⁷), therefore existing facilities should be consolidated and improved rather than new spaces provided [sic – the current study maintains that new neighbourhood parks are required in some areas of the city and in newly expanding subdivisions and that further strategic development/ acquisition of open space is required to meet needs for improved linkages within the City];

¹⁷ Note that whilst this benchmark is commonly used (as are others, some of which date from the 1920s and have remained unchanged since), determination of open space requirements based on population has increasingly been replaced by needs based assessments that are responsive to the particular needs of a community and on an emphasis on the provision of readily accessible, quality open space.

there should be guidelines developed which ensure that developers meet community, cultural and environmental expectations of the community in providing open space;

a network of walking trails within Burnie should be created using the open space zone;

conservation lands in and around development sites should be provided to help protect biodiversity and to provide open space for recreation;

new and changing settlement areas should incorporate open space that is accessible to the public, which provides opportunities for recreation, nature conservation, social interaction, and visual enhancement and amenity;

the waterfront provides an opportunity for more highly developed open space, with a particular role for tourism; and

with regard to sport and recreation, that the two Bowl's Clubs merge at West Park, West Park should be further developed as a sport and recreation precinct, complementary to the waterfront development and there is no need for additional new sporting venues as existing venues are undeveloped and should be expanded and redeveloped.

City of Burnie Positive Ageing Plan 2006-2010

the conclusions highlight the importance of open space in the maintenance of health and the prevention of illness for the aging population of the City - recommending development of an integrated network of pathways that includes flat and accessible walking tracks with amenities be developed throughout the City

City of Burnie Tourism Development Plan 2004

identifies the scope for the development of Burnie's waterfront (West Park and Hilder Parade) and coastline as key visitor attractions

West Park Precinct Project 2007

the recommendations of that up to 30% of the area should be retained as open space and further 35% for sport, leisure and recreation

Parks and Reserves Service Level Document 2007-08, City of Burnie

the methods described in by which Council will meet its obligations for the operation and management of parks, reserves and related assets in response to the classification of land parcels (the inventory in this report has been used as the basis for the survey work carried out in the current study)

City of Burnie Preliminary Open Space Strategy, Jerry de Gryse Pty Ltd and Hepper Marriott Tasmania Pty Ltd 1994

the preparation of Plans of Management for the city's open spaces supports the determination to carry out the current project

the policy framework for open space remains relevant in parts but which has been updated to reflect current practice in open space delivery (see Chapter 3)

Various Management Plans

various site management plans including the *Fern Glade Recreation and Conservation Reserve Management Plan* and the *Burnie Park Management Plan*, which provide site specific recommendations that should be implemented.

CHAPTER 3

COMMON ISSUES FOR OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT

The survey of open space undertaken as part of the current study has identified a range of issues for open space management that cross the open space categories. These include:

management plans, master planning and landscape design
(Section 3.1);

facilities design and provision (Section 3.2);

play equipment, safety and risk management (Section 3.3); and

open space landscaping (Section 3.4).

3.1 MANAGEMENT PLANS, MASTER PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The level of planning and design that is required for various open spaces will vary with the role of the reserve and its importance in the overall scheme of the open space system.

Typically, more significant open spaces (regional parks, community parks) will require a management plan and/or a master plan to ensure their integrated development. A management plan is strategic in its approach and addresses concerns for management of values, visitor experience/behaviour and management capacities, administrative procedures and programs. A management plan should include a set of goals and objectives covering how the area is to be developed over time and how it should be operated on a day-to-day basis.

The master plan, then, illustrates the essential principles to be followed in the physical development of the park including siting of buildings, roads, paths and plantings.

'Landscape design', then, examines hard and soft landscape construction in detail focusing on set out, levels, surface treatments, irrigation, stormwater management, lighting, furniture, building elements, etc.

Whilst, such a progression of investigation and design would be ideal, it is recognised that few Councils would have the resources required to achieve this outcome.

As a general approach:

all regional and community parks should have a management plan and a master plan based on in-depth community consultation and that development of key areas within the parks should be subject to detailed landscape/urban design (as was done for instance with the development of the new skate park);

all neighbourhood parks should have master plans (albeit these may be simple sketch plans, professionally prepared and in response to locally focused consultation);

major outdoor sports venues should have master plans developed in response to in depth community and stakeholder consultation and in some instances detailed landscape/urban design; and

areas of high use (major linkages), high landscape amenity or high conservation/heritage values should be managed to a level of planning appropriate to the values being managed (i.e. a management plan may be more appropriate than a master plan for a bushland reserve such as Round Hill whereas linkages may benefit from a master plan).

In some instances, where open spaces are associated with more complex issues of community and urban development, an 'urban design framework' may be appropriate. Such a framework considers a broad range of issues including questions of economic return, the integration of private development, community/neighbourhood revitalization, transport/people movement, principles for urban form, settlement pattern and design etc.

3.2 FACILITIES DESIGN AND PROVISION

The quality, level of distribution and style of design of park facilities within Burnie varies considerably. Given the leisure trends outlined earlier, demand for better recreation planning and park facilities is inevitable. Already, Council has made inroads towards standardisation of the level of provision of facilities within Parks through its inventory of play and exercise equipment and its service level document which guides maintenance of Council's open spaces.

One direction to improve the situation would be the development of a comprehensive set of guidelines or design standards manual for the provision of amenities (including signage). Such a manual would provide guidance to managers on the siting, selection, construction, installation and maintenance of facilities throughout the open space network.

The result will be a unified system of amenities that will:

- standardise the quality of facilities being provided in Burnie's open spaces yet allow flexibility to respond to varying site conditions;
- enhance the experience of the open space system;
- act as a guide for qualified professionals doing site planning for new reserves and/or redeveloping existing ones;
- give a corporate image to the facilities in each of the reserves;
- lead to reduced maintenance costs through standardisation; and
- lead to lower construction costs through economies of scale.

One immediate observation regarding facilities is that play equipment is provided in most areas identified as neighbourhood parks. However, in many instances, this is the only facility that is provided. There is an opportunity, therefore, to systematically upgrade the neighbourhood parks of the City to include: signage, seating, shade tree planting, safety fencing where required and paths to link the park to surrounding areas.

3.3 PLAY EQUIPMENT, SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council, as owners and/or occupiers of its reserves owes a general duty of care to the people who enter them. This general duty requires the Council to identify and respond to risks of injury, hazards or dangers - a response that can involve elimination, reduction, transferring, managing or making safe these problems through the adoption of best practice management systems.

Council must continue to develop the management capacity within its organisational resources and procedures to respond effectively to risk issues if it is to limit its liability arising from identified risks.

Amongst the many activities that are required, the following were apparent in the survey of reserves including the need to:

- continuously monitor play equipment to ensure its safety;

continuous upgrade under-surfacing for all play equipment;

remove old style high risk equipment;

install safety fencing in areas where play equipment is close to a hazardous situation or where a hazardous situation exists generally; and

install lighting along made paths, particularly those designated as important linkways.

3.4 OPEN SPACE LANDSCAPING

Landscaping within the network of open spaces in the City of Burnie is highly variable. Showpiece reserves such as Burnie City Park incorporate extensive ornamental plantings, bushland reserves retain native vegetation cover, whilst other reserves are typically comprised of grass and scattered trees.

As a principle, the use of indigenous plant species for landscaping offers a range of positive benefits to the City. Indigenous vegetation:

is a key component of any drive for environmental sustainability;

could be used both for ecological restoration and for ornamental purposes (i.e. for visual delight or functional reasons of screening, wind protection, etc.);

is relatively inexpensive to establish and maintain being suited to local environmental conditions;

acts as a buffer to self-maintaining remnant natural areas; and

serves as a visual link and in some instances (or for some species) as a physical link between disparate remnant natural areas.

Recognising that not all locations are suited to the use of indigenous species, exotic species can still be used especially where there are:

European cultural heritage values to be respected;

particular requirements for winter light access or ornament; and/or

functional needs that can only be met by alternative species (water treatment, wind break, traffic/pedestrian control, etc.).

CHAPTER 4

POLICY FOR OPEN SPACE PROVISION AND MANAGEMENT

The following policy framework is designed to guide the future planning, management, maintenance and improvement of open space within Burnie over the next 10 years. The key components of the policy framework are:

- the vision for Council's open space (Section 4.1);
- a suite of open space and recreation planning principles (Section 4.2);
- the open space policy (Section 4.3); and
- a specific policy for the acquisition and funding of the provision of open space (Section 4.4).

4.1 VISION

The following vision is a statement of Council's intent regarding its involvement and responsibility with regards to open space in the community. The vision is in line with Councils overarching vision for the City to be a "progressive and vibrant community".

The City of Burnie will be a liveable place where planned open space opportunities are actively managed in a sustainable manner in support of the community's social and physical well-being".

The term "sustainable" is defined in several ways:

- the ability open space facilities and associated programs and services to continue to be available as a result of good maintenance, good management and, where relevant, with minimal or no detrimental impacts on the environment;
- the ability of Council and the community to afford and maintain the open spaces which are provided; and
- to ensure that the open spaces continue to be relevant and attractive, and meet the needs of the community.

The intent of the word “community” is that provision will be made for:

the general resident community within the City of Burnie;

visitors to the area; and

a range of other individuals and groups who may well have special requirements which need to be met to ensure that they can access open space and undertake recreation pursuits, and thereby gain the benefits intended through the provision of accessible open space (e.g. aged, youth, people with disabilities, minority cultural groups, the Aboriginal community, etc).

The vision statement is consistent with the broader open space vision for the Cradle Coast region¹⁸ that refers to (as part of the vision statement):

“Local open spaces will create a distinctive landscape and offer a diversity of recreational experiences that provide personal, social, economic and environmental benefits to the region and its visitors.” and

“The quality and accessibility of parks will motivate residents to exercise and participate in social activities, and contribute significantly to resident’s sense of well being.”

4.2 OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

The following is a set of broad principles, to guide decisions and planning relating to open space over the long-term, and to aid in the realisation of Council’s vision for open space.

These principles are, in part, based on the policy principles adopted by the Active Australia Program, but have been revised and expanded to account for the needs of the Burnie community. The proposed principles also build on those espoused in the *City of Burnie Recreation Plan and Aquatic Centre Feasibility Study* (and thus incorporate concepts related to recreation as well as open space).

Fairness, Equality and Access – Council will actively seek equality of access to open space, sport, leisure and recreation opportunities regardless of age, sex, mobility, ethnicity or economic capacity by providing extra help for those for whom access is more difficult (e.g. for reason of language or mobility barriers); encouraging the development of user-friendly and high standard access infrastructure (including roads, footpaths, bike ways); ensuring equitable pricing policies, and favouring initiatives that improve access.

¹⁸ Draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan

Life-Long Involvement – Council is committed to ensuring that all members of the community have the opportunity for life-long involvement in sport, leisure and recreation through use of open space, participation and education programs, improvement of access and services and exposing people to new or different leisure and recreation opportunities.

Quality of Experience and Safety – Council believes that the resident and visitor community have the right to expect a high standard of open space and recreation opportunities based on identified community needs. Council recognises the value of experiential qualities of open space and recreation (including environment and setting); and the need to ensure that facilities, programs and services are provided in accordance with community need, contemporary standards and practices for health, risk and public safety.

Continual Improvement – Council is committed to reviewing and continually upgrading its provision of open space and recreational facilities, programs and services, and to improving the operational capacity of Council in relation to the provision of these services, and to facilitate initiatives in the community and commercial sectors, which improve open space and recreation opportunities.

Sustainability – Council believes in ensuring the sustainability of open space and recreation opportunities by providing facilities programs and services which meet identified needs in the community; by strengthening the ability of Council and the community to develop, operate and maintain them, and by avoiding, remedying or mitigating any lasting impacts upon the natural environment and quality of life of residents. In pursuing this principle, Council will encourage the involvement of members of the community in major decisions relating to open space and recreation.

Multiple-Use and Efficiency – Council believes in multi-use and efficiency in the provision of open space and recreation opportunities. Efficiency is measured in terms of the costs incurred in the running of programs, maintenance, improvement or replacement of facilities against the benefits to the whole community in terms of opportunity for use. Preference will be given to initiatives which avoid duplication, which are designed to support and encourage multi-use and which help to achieve a coordinated and holistic approach to open space provision and recreation opportunities.

Diversity of Opportunities – Council will support the provision of a range of opportunities for both passive and active recreation; in response to community needs; in a number of locations; at all levels of skill and competence and which cater for needs at the local, municipal and regional levels. Council will encourage the development of new opportunities for recreation in the City of Burnie.

Partnerships/Shared Responsibility – Council will pursue opportunities for joint development of facilities with other providers (e.g. schools, Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania, private business, not-for-profit agencies), encourage shared management regimes with clubs and community groups and inter-agency and inter-government cooperation; and will assist those who assist the community (e.g. volunteers and community based groups).

Making a Whole-of-Council Commitment – Council believes in a cooperative, whole-of-Council commitment to meeting the foregoing principles and to improving open space management and opportunities for recreation for all members of the community.

Organisational Capacity – Council will develop the organisational and financial capacity to actively, plan, manage and assist with the delivery of open space and facilities, programs and services that enhance the opportunities for the community to benefit from engaging in recreational activities and open space use.

Whilst the principles outlined above express accepted community values to some degree (i.e. fairness, sustainability, life-long involvement) they have the potential to be used as guides for making decisions about open space provision and recreation priorities in the future. If a proposal can satisfy all of these principles then this should indicate to the Council that the proposal is worthy of proceeding to more detailed investigation and assessment. If the proposal fails on several of these principles, then it suggests that the benefits to the community may not be sufficient to warrant Council support or resource investment.

4.3 OPEN SPACE POLICY

4.3.1 Policy Positions

The *draft Cradle Coast Region Open Space Plan* identified the following goals to address the demand and supply in the region, those being:

Consistent and high quality open space planning in Cradle Coast.

State, regional and local government working collaboratively to improve open space planning and management.

Open spaces that enhance the health and wellbeing of the current and future Cradle Coast community.

Provide quality open spaces that offer diverse recreation opportunities, and enhance viability of infrastructure.

Natural environment and cultural heritage protected and promoted as a competitive strength.

These are supported as goals that can help guide decision-making about open space at the regional and municipal level.

The following policy positions have been identified to guide the Council in progressing the *Burnie Open Space Development Strategy* based on a review of existing policies and practices:

Recreation facilities, programs and services on Council land or land for which Council is responsible will be managed and maintained by the Council, either directly or under arrangements endorsed and regulated by Council.

Council will only provide new open space, new facilities, programs and services, which reflect identified community needs and which will broaden the base for participation in recreational activity and/or improve connectivity between open spaces and the city centre.

Council will continue to provide a range of open spaces and facilities to allow the opportunity for an equitable range of both structured and unstructured recreational experiences. Wherever practical, those open spaces and facilities will be developed, managed and scheduled to support multi-use.

Council will provide and maintain open spaces and recreation facilities, programs and services for the use and enjoyment of the community. Standards of provision will be appropriate for the standard and level of use and will comply with contemporary standards for competition, safety and risk management.

All Council open space and recreational facilities, programs and services shall be subject to the provisions of Council By-laws.

Council will continuously review the existing provision of open space and recreation facilities, programs and services for the purpose of determining need and relevance, and where appropriate, will refurbish and/or rationalise the assets or restructure their management to ensure current and emergent needs are satisfied.

Council will promote the availability of open space and recreation facilities, programs and services in the community for a broad range of uses, and shall encourage individual, associations and clubs to provide events and sporting fixtures on Council reserves whether on a regular or occasional basis.

In order to encourage multiple use and shared access, Council will seek alternative arrangements to granting associations, clubs or individuals exclusive occupancy rights to any open space or facility for specified hours, days, and weeks within particular seasons of the year.

Council will develop and maintain open space and recreation facilities, programs and services according to a hierarchy of standards in order to offer sustainable opportunities for participation at all appropriate skill levels.

Council will establish specifications for provision and maintenance for each type and standard of facility, program and service so as to deliver a consistency of provision at a cost that is sustainable.

Fees and charges will be established on the basis of facility, program and service maintenance costs, facility, program, service and user types, and Council's community service obligations.

Council will encourage and facilitate development and transition to a shared or multiple occupation of existing sporting grounds, facilities, clubrooms and social facilities.

Council will monitor the implementation and impacts of these policy positions, and review and revise them on a 3-5 yearly basis as deemed appropriate. Additional items can also be added depending on new and changing circumstances.

4.3.2 Policy on Assessing of Open Space Needs

The assessment of open space needs is more about adopting a process than taking a single policy position (e.g. assuming 5% of the land will be sufficient for all new development). It is more beneficial to base the decision making on an assessment of open space suitability, community needs and management implications. Accordingly it is recommended that the Council adopt the following policy in assessing its open spaces:

the proposed open space will be consistent with achieving Council's vision, guiding principles and policy position for open space and recreation (Sections 4.1 and 4.2);

the proposed open space will be consistent with Council's open space classification system;

the proposed open space will be consistent with any assessment of future open space and community recreation needs;

the merits of the proposed open space will be based on assessed community need (existing and future) and where appropriate, meet identified equity deficiencies in provision of open space;

the physical characteristics, aspect, size and dimensions of the proposed open space are suitable for its intended use and function (including recreation, environmental management, drainage, landscaping, etc);

the proposed open space has the potential to deliver quality of recreational and social experiences that match known community needs and will contribute to the overall quality of the open space network for the local/district/region;

the proposed open space will be compatible with surrounding land uses and provide, where appropriate, improved accessibility to open space and other community facilities; and

the planning, development, management and maintenance of the proposed open space are within the capacity and capability of Council's resources.

Table 4.1 provides a checklist that should be used in assessing open space requirements within the City.

Checklist	Comment
1. Is the proposed open space land consistent with Council's strategic policy framework for recreation and open space?	This includes the <i>Burnie City Council Strategic Plan</i> , <i>Burnie Planning Scheme</i> , <i>Burnie Recreation Plan</i> , <i>Cradle Coast Region Open Space Plan</i> and other reports, master plans adopted by Council. In particular it should be assessed against the Council's vision, guiding principles and policy position for open space and recreation (Chapter 3)
2. Has the project included a needs assessment, which clearly justifies and supports the need for open space?	It is important to assess how the needs may have been determined. This could be based on current needs or expected future needs given demographic trends, recreation trends etc.
3. Is there evidence of community need for the open space?	This should assess whether the proposed open space has been identified through past reports, community consultation or other communication with Council.
4. Has an assessment of the suitability of the proposed open space been undertaken?	Refer to Appendix D, which sets out a recommended process. Importantly this assessment should help determine whether the location, size, design, linkages and values will create useable open space
5. Have the potential social, economic and environmental benefits and consequences of the proposed open space been assessed?	This is important to determine whether the benefits outweigh the ongoing management and maintenance costs for the open space.
6. How would the open space be classified and would it satisfy the purpose, amenities, indicative size and management issues for that classification?	Appendix C sets out the recommended classification system for open space within the City of Burnie. This assessment should assist with determining the suitability of the proposed open space to contribute to the overall quality of the open space network for the Council. For instance this would question whether 5% of the land area is adequate for achieving good open space outcomes for the community.

Table 4.1 Checklist for Assessment of Open Space Requirements

The open space strategy guidelines formulated within the *draft Cradle Coast Region Open Space Plan* provide some additional clarity to the process through the steps of:

determining the ultimate housing density of an area, as well as the nature/size of private open space and transitional open space available;

review pre-planning information about the development site e.g. existing conditions, environmental and site potential information;

assess local open space and activity demand (e.g. size and viability for sportsgrounds);

assess the existing supply of open space and the leisure potential of the site;

determine the nature of space required for non-recreational purposes (e.g. drainage, flood retention, WSUD, electricity supply, buffer, protection of heritage and vegetation);

determine sites for schools, community centres and shopping facilities to determine whether open space can be co-located to add value;

consider likely competition between facilities of a sub-regional catchment and above and create differentiation between them;

use criteria to determine what open space functions are required, size, distance thresholds, location and how they relate to each other;

identify the primary functions required on the site;

determine the amount of open space to meet these requirements excluding encumbered and other types of undevelopable land and determine likely open space contributions; and

refine recommended provision after considering availability of other public land and other technical land capability assessments.

4.4 ACQUISITION AND FUNDING OF OPEN SPACE

There are a range of opportunities available to Council for acquiring and funding the acquisition of open space, including:

taking of 5% or cash-in-lieu as may be required/negotiated at the time of a development approval;

increasing the Council's budget available for acquisition of open space; and

fostering bequeaths/contributions and negotiation options with land owners.

Most Councils in the State obtain open space contributions under the *Local Government Building and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1993*, in order to ensure developers make an appropriate contribution towards public open space to account for the increased density of residential development when carrying out subdivisions. The *Act* states that Councils have discretion in negotiating for the provision of public open space within new subdivisions. In some situations, Councils have negotiated for open space provision in excess of 5% due to the strategic location of the land and wider value to the community. Given the limited resources available to Councils for

managing open space, it is often the case that 5% cash in lieu contribution is preferred for all subdivisions¹⁹ (including building estates). The cash contribution is calculated on the valuation of the land area of the new lot(s) created, but excludes the balance lot.

In some other parts of Australia, the principal vehicle for establishing funding of open space acquisition is through the adoption of Development Contributions Plans, of which open space is one component. These Plans set out the basis for the contributions per lot within different settlements and rural areas. However, Development Contributions Plans have yet to have supportive legislation and adoption within the Tasmania.

In the absence of a Development Contributions Plan the Council can increase the budget allocation towards open space acquisition and management, although this is often difficult given other priorities for funding allocation. It may be possible to negotiate the sale of some Council owned land that has limited value for open space or operational uses, subject to following the statutory processes²⁰ required under the *Local Government Act 1993*. However, it is recognised that the parcels of land with little value as open space identified in this report, are generally not suitable for private sale (e.g. as a result of overhead high voltage power lines, or steep topography).

Land can be donated or bequeathed to Council for the creation of a reserve – the agreement for sale could include provision for the land to be declared a reserve, entering into a management agreement or imposing a restrictive covenant that restricts the use of the land. This option would normally require a formal survey plan, application for a development permit for subdivision, registration of the amended title documents and contracts for transfer of the land.

However, community access to private land for open space use may also be achieved through other mechanisms such as leases, covenants and agreements. If landowners wish to retain part of their land, an alternative is for the Council to lease the land to be used for open space. The lease could be subject to provisions restricting use, requiring management actions and assigning responsibility for maintenance costs and liability for injury to the Council. Where land has been identified as having 'conservation value' there may be the option to use covenants and agreements. However experience with applying tree protection covenants in some Councils has shown problems with the enforcement of these covenants, and consideration is being given to a policy that might put a replacement value on the trees.

¹⁹ The exceptions may include where Council applies discretion, where only a boundary adjustment is involved, where no new lot is created, or where the new lot is not capable of residential development.

²⁰ Council is currently undertaking an assessment of the operational and public land managed by Council.

The potential may exist in some occasions for Council to enter into joint development of recreational facilities and open space with other parties, as this may be a realistic way to offset investment costs (especially land purchase) to achieve a positive benefit for the local community. For instance it may be possible to negotiate a land contribution greater than 5% if the land area is ideally suited to be developed to cater for a wider population catchment need than the local area.

Council should investigate all possible options available for the acquisition of open space, but primarily through ensuring the taking of land for public open space, at the time of development approval, that reflects the long term Open Space Strategy for the City. The alternative approaches for securing access to private land for open space, such as leases, covenants and agreements may be an effective way to achieve the creation of the recreation trails network rather than waiting for new subdivision or building land acquisition funds to secure sections of the trails. In this case, Council would most likely be responsible for public liability insurance.

CHAPTER 5

STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF OPEN SPACE NEEDS

5.1 STRATEGIC APPROACH TO OPEN SPACE

5.1.1 Background

Burnie previously used differing methods of classifying Parks and Reserves. The most recent documents that have used different classification systems are the *Service Level Document 2007/08* and the *Recreation Plan*. Neither system takes into account the full range of values represented in the open space system, the first focusing on the maintenance requirements of various parcels of land and the second limiting itself to their recreational value.

The current study has taken a wider approach to the survey of the values of the open spaces in the city including not only recreation but also other values such as amenity, conservation and aesthetics.

Using this information, the *Open Space Development Strategy* proposes a hierarchical framework for open spaces that defines them according to their function and/or physical characteristics and the geographic catchment that they service thereby allowing easier application of generic land management guidelines.

Table 5.1 provides a comparison of the three methods, demonstrating how the categories and hierarchy correlate with past methods of categorisation.

Note that the categorisation of a parcel of land is meant to indicate its primary purpose, not necessarily its only purpose. Regional or Sub-Regional Parks, for instance, might also serve as Local Parks for those living nearby in addition to meeting the range of broader geographic needs met by these open space types. Landscape and Amenity Reserves, Conservation and Heritage Reserves, Utility Reserves, etc., also for instance, might be part of a network of Linear and Linkage Reserves.

Proposed Burnie Open Space Categories	Burnie Recreation Plan (2003)	Parks and Reserves Service Level Document (2007-08)
Park (Regional)	Developed Informal, Non-Competitive Venues	Feature Parks Grounds
Park (Community)	Developed Informal, Non-Competitive Venues	Feature Parks Grounds Minor Park
Park (Neighbourhood)	Developed Informal, Non-Competitive Venues	Minor Park
Foreshore	Developed Informal, Non-Competitive Venues Foreshore, Beach Bay and Strait Venues	Foreshore
Linear and Linkage	Waterway and Lake Venues Foreshore, Beach Bay and Strait Venues Linear and Linkage Venues	Minor Park Public Reserve
Outdoor Sports Venue	Outdoor Sporting Venue	Sportsground
Conservation	Conservation and Heritage Venues	Public Reserve
Landscape and Amenity Reserve	Landscape and Amenity Resources	Minor Park Miscellaneous Grounds Public Reserve
Utility and Services Reserve	Landscape and Amenity Resources	Miscellaneous Grounds Public Reserve

Table 5.1 Comparison of the Plan of Management Categories with Previous Categorisations of City Open Spaces

The draft *Cradle Coast Open Space Plan 2009* proposes classification of the regional open space using the approach of determining:

- settlement type (rural, low density and town/residential);
- primary function or purpose of a space (17 functions);
- landscape setting or form of an open space (13 settings); and
- catchment (neighbourhood, sub-regional and regional).

The plan identified four primary functions to be priority - these were noted as social/family recreation, sport, accessway/trail and relaxation/contemplation/escape. It was also mentioned that all these needs are close to where people live. The

characteristics of these four functions are described along with the core levels of service across the catchment levels.

The above classification is considered to be more complex but not necessarily inconsistent with the proposed Burnie open space categories (as listed in Table 1.1) as it uses the same hierarchy of open space (catchment) and the four priority functions relate across the open space categories.

The difference in classification approaches is essentially that the Burnie open space categories are a more simple classification system that is considered to be more functional for Council to use in a generic way to guide planning and management across its range of open space areas. Currently the core service elements outlined in the regional open space plan are generally broad statements/guidelines and have not yet been fully developed for all primary functions.

Many of the City's open spaces have multiple functions and often have varying landscape settings that contribute to the range of recreational experiences and values within the open space. For instance under the *Draft Cradle Coast Region Open Space Plan* Burnie Park would be classified as residential/township, a regional open space that would meet 13 of the primary functions or purpose of the open space and 8 of the landscape settings. Under the proposed Burnie open space categories, Burnie Park would be considered as a regional open space with the primary function as a park.

Each of the Burnie open space categories (refer to Appendix C) defines the open space category, purpose, amenities, indicative sizes and management issues.

It will be up to Council to decide which classification system best suits its planning and management needs – the proposed Burnie open space categories and the regional open space plan approaches are not inconsistent in purpose, but do differ in the level of detail that will need to be developed.

5.1.2 Open Space Classification

The open space areas within the City of Burnie can be categorised into different types that are generic in nature so as to indicate their broad purposes and potentials rather than to specify particular uses. As such, categories allow varying management responses over time in relation to recreation needs, asset protection, habitat protection, and services provision, etc.

The open space *typology* defined for the City of Burnie contains eight different types of open space, they are:

Park;

Sport;

Landscape and Amenity;

Linear and Linkage;

Foreshore and Waterway;

Conservation and Heritage;

Utilities and Services; and

Undeveloped.

For each different category of open space, Appendix C provides a description of:

- the definition of the open space category;
- the purposes of the open space category;
- the amenities, which may need to be provided;
- the indicative sizes of open space; and
- the management issues often associated with specific open space categories.

5.1.3 Hierarchy of Open Space

A *hierarchy* of open space resources refers to the scale of the area served or the catchment from which the resource attracts users. Within the City of Burnie a hierarchy of parks has been developed, differentiating between local or neighbourhood parks, those that serve a larger district or community and those that serve a larger population catchment than the City and thereby achieve regional importance.

The hierarchy provides an indication of the role a park is expected to perform and thereby, the size of the site and the scale and quality of the amenities, services and other resources which could be expected to be provided. These factors will generally be different for the two levels of the hierarchy.

From a management point of view, the position of a park in a hierarchy provides an indication of the maintenance inputs, which should be, or will need to be allocated to it, and which activities might not be permitted to use it. This helps to ensure that limited Council resources are used efficiently and effectively, rather than spending similar amounts on all venues regardless of who or what role they serve.

From an information perspective, promoting the hierarchical position of a resource helps inform the community and intending users of the standard and sometimes, the cost of the services and programs, which will be offered.

Neighbourhood, community and regional parks are defined in Table 5.2 and examples are given.

Open Space	Defined	Examples
Neighbourhood	<p><i>Neighbourhood parks</i> predominantly or totally serve neighbourhoods within the City because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> they are generally small in size and do not have the capacity to serve a broad catchment and therefore cater to small localised catchment areas e.g. a neighbourhood; they provide opportunities similar to those available at a number of other locations and thus do not attract people from far away; and/or they have been designed and sited in a way, which ensures good access from nearby areas (within 500 metres of residences to be served without the requirement to cross a major highway or physical barrier). <p><i>Neighbourhood Parks</i> should be developed according to site specific concept plans.</p>	Example: Jorgenson Street Reserve, numerous other examples
Community	<p><i>Community Parks</i> serve substantial and often well-defined geographical districts or precincts within the City. Their characteristics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally larger size than neighbourhood areas, albeit they may address some similar needs or contain some, similar facilities; multiple uses and user groups more specialised uses; and/or greater concentration of facilities and wider opportunities for experiences <p><i>Community Parks</i> are typically of such a scale that they should be developed according to a site specific master plan and the detailed design of parts or the whole of the reserve.</p> <p><i>Community Parks</i> should be linked to their surrounding district.</p>	<p>Examples: Burnie Park, Romaine Reserve, Ridgley Reserve, Upper Natone Reserve, Oakleigh Park,</p> <p>Potential: Wivenhoe Showground, Camdale Foreshore, Wiseman Street, Somerset</p>
Regional	<p><i>Regional</i> open spaces are those, which serve the needs of the residents of the broad geographical area such as northern/northwest Tasmania, and may provide facilities for multiple municipal areas. They are classified as regional for one or more of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> they are larger than other facilities of the same type; they have or need a substantial user market to remain viable; they support either a wide mix of uses or high specialisation of use; they are generally of high quality; they are generally costly to provide; they are unique to the region; they have environmental, heritage, amenity or other special significance; and/or there is a low frequency of provision or natural occurrence. <p><i>Regional</i> open spaces are typically of such a scale that they should be developed according to a site specific master plan and the detailed design of parts or the whole of the reserve.</p> <p><i>Regional</i> open space resources frequently include major sports grounds, and longer-distance trails or tracks, and various types of nature reserves.</p>	Example: West Park/Hilder Parade, Fernglade, Guide Falls

Table 5.2. Description of Open Space Hierarchy

5.2 ASSESSMENT OF OPEN SPACE NEEDS

5.2.1 Draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009

The draft *Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009* provides some insight into the projected demand for sport and recreation facilities, gaps in open space provision and general opportunities in open space provision within the region and the City of Burnie. These aspects are discussed below.

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE NEEDS

Based on the ERASS 2006 Recreation and Sport Survey²¹ findings the report indicated that there would be a general decline in projected demand for off-road trails, swimming pools, gym/group fitness, outdoor courts, outdoor playing fields, outdoor water sports/surf sports/boating/fishing and skate facilities in the City of Burnie in coming years through to 2021. In the review of other policy and strategies across the Cradle Coast Region, it identified the following demand for open space and outdoor activities:

high demand for unstructured leisure activities (walking, fishing, swimming, cycling);

high demand for trails and social/family recreation space;

the main motivators to participation in open space were fitness, health and exercise, socializing and relaxation;

likely decline in traditional sports;

less young people who will reduce demand for play and junior sports activities;

likely increase for recreation activities that attract older adults;

increased demand for outdoor experiences, whether adventure based or a leisurely walk in a park; and

need for accessible facilities and those connected by trails and public transport.

²¹ ERASS 2006 Recreation and Sport Survey, Tasmania Activity Projection Time Series (State)

The overall key findings relating to demand for activities across the region were considered to be:

- develop more trails closer to where people live;
- promote major walking and cycling routes;
- maximise accessibility of walking and cycling routes;
- provide for on-road cyclists;
- connect open spaces to cycling and pedestrian networks;
- facilitate dog walking; and
- provide open spaces within safe walkable distances of where people live.

The above findings are consistent with the identified needs within the original Burnie Open Space Development Strategy report and in particular draw attention to:

- the importance of providing safe accessibility to open space close to where people live;
- there is generally well-provided open space and facilities for sporting use, and it is expected that there will continue to be a decline in traditional sport participation associated with the ageing population profile and declining participation levels in structured sport;
- the significance of recreational trails (e.g. walking, cycling, jogging, fitness) across the community and that there should be well developed connections between open spaces and community facilities;
- a greater emphasis should be given towards enhancing use of open space for social/family recreation activities (e.g. design, trails, seating, lighting, social facilities);
- there will be new demands for open space to better cater for activities suiting the needs of the aging community; and
- open space areas should be connected with trails and public transport.

CITY OF BURNIE OPEN SPACE NEEDS

The draft *Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009* identified a number of general gaps in open space provision within the City of Burnie. Table 5.3 lists these gaps with comment in relation to the Burnie Open Space Development Strategy.

Gaps identified in Burnie in the draft <i>Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009</i>	Comment in relation to the Burnie Open Space Development Strategy
Major barriers to participation resulting from major transport nodes (highways and railway) and river systems that dissect Burnie	The history of land use development has created these barriers and consequently it is important to look at the opportunities to provide safe pedestrian and bike access at intersections, under-passes so as to reach desired access and facilities.
Undulating topography is a barrier to people accessing open spaces	Open space provision especially for neighbourhood and community open space should consider how the local topography affects accessibility – in some cases the walking distance to useable open space may be reduced to counteract topography.
Poor access to social/family recreation open spaces	The City is considered to generally have an adequate range of open space to cater for social/family needs but there are some locations such as Upper Burnie, Romaine, Brooklyn and Cooe where upgrading of existing open spaces and facilities have been identified.
West Parks sports precinct restricted by the highway and railway and there are limited opportunities to further develop the site as the premier sports District in the municipality	Limited space will restrict capacity to expand facilities and use but Council's redevelopment plans and Sports Club development will maintain its significance as the premier sports facility venue.
A mix of land uses competes with recreation, environmental and landscape values of the foreshore	This suggests the importance for having well-developed open space nodes that allow access to the more useable foreshore areas and the need for linking trails that provide connection between the foreshore areas and around existing land uses (e.g port, industrial).
Small street reserves do not encourage community use	Some small street reserves may be limited by size, location, lack of facilities to sustain wider community use but may still provide open space value for local use e.g. seating, amenity value, social meeting.
The provision of trails and footpaths in residential areas is limited	The Council has developed some longer distance trails that connect with the linear open spaces in the City. The natural creek systems (e.g. Shorewell Creek, Alexander Creek, Romaine Creek and Emu Creek) also offer potential for upgrading cross-city trails. The existing footpaths in residential areas provide scope for links to these trails, community facilities and open space areas.

Table 5.3 Identified Gaps in Burnie City in the Draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009

Table 5.4 lists open space opportunities in draft *Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009* with comment in relation to the Burnie Open Space Development Strategy.

Opportunities identified in Burnie in the draft <i>Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009</i>	Comment in relation to the Burnie Open Space Development Strategy
Develop a trail along the coast/railway line	A recognized need expressed within the community over many years but subject to future use of existing railway infrastructure.
Improve pedestrian access and safety in urban areas	Broad objective that would be considered in all planning and development decisions.
Establish an interconnecting trail network that connects open spaces with residential areas, schools and open spaces	Basis for interconnecting open space and trail network has been established by Council. The preparation of a recreation trails plan would consider the prospects for adding further connections between community open spaces, facilities and centres.
Improve the range and design of landscape settings and provision of facilities at local and district level open spaces for social and family recreation	Broad objective that should be pursued in the upgrading of existing open space and taking of future land for local and district open space.
Develop streetscapes that offer social/family recreation opportunities and encourage active lifestyles	Broad objective that should be pursued in future streetscape, infrastructure and landscape planning within the City.
Improve access to the foreshore for residential areas and town centres	Access from the town centre is being addressed through the upgrading of the West Beach foreshore, parking and amenity. Priority should be given to improving access to recognized open space hubs along the foreshore in preference to a multiplicity of crossing points given issues and costs involved with railway operations.
Improve access to the skate park	Access will be improved as part of the master planning occurring with the whole of West Park foreshore area.
Partner local schools in sharing the school sports facilities	In the past accessibility has generally been influenced by the school principal and risk management/public liability has always been a concern. The State Government has agreed to take public liability responsibility for all schools and this should support the community sharing of facilities and sportsgrounds in the future.
Protect the biodiversity values along the riparian and transport corridors	Broad objective that should be part of planning, development and management approach to riparian and transport corridors.

Table 5.4 Identified Opportunities in *Burnie City in the Draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009*

Opportunities identified in Burnie in the draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009	Comment in relation to the Burnie Open Space Development Strategy
Protect and improve the recreation values and natural vegetation along the foreshore	Broad objective that should be part of planning, development and management approach to assist sustainable management practices.
Protect escarpment and environment/land slip areas from urban development	Planning scheme development controls in place
Ensure future subdivisions provide connected open space for social/family recreation and sport.	This should be based on needs assessment for the local area and part of the process in assessing the public open space contribution associated with any future subdivision

Table 5.4 Identified Opportunities in *Burnie City in the Draft Cradle Coast Regional Open Space Plan 2009*

5.2.2 Assessment of Opportunities and Gaps in Open Space Provision

As discussed in Section 1.4, the current study has not involved a detailed analysis of current open space needs but has included the identification of some needs through the above analysis of the open space context (Sections 2.1-2.5) including the findings of previous studies.

FIELDWORK ASSESSMENT

Fieldwork has also been undertaken to examine the existing open space network that has led to an understanding of some gaps in the provision of open space in the City.

Maps 5.1 and 5.2 provide an overview of the open space provision within the City including:

- the location of Council owned land listed in the site inventory (Appendix A);

- the categorization of the open space area (refer to Section 5.1.2);
- and

- neighbourhood facilities serviceable area, which refers to a 500m walkable area around each of the neighbourhood parks, taking into consideration access barriers and topography.

The maps provides an indication of opportunities to address these gaps through:

the selection of open space areas that could become neighbourhood parks and the resulting local catchment areas these would cover, especially to meet the gaps in the Cooee, Brooklyn, Romaine and fringe developing areas;

the significance of West Park as a regional park as a hub with associated sporting, recreation, tourism, cultural and community facilities;

the importance of Burnie Park, Oakleigh Park, Camdale foreshore, Shorewell Park, Romaine Reserve and Ridgely oval playing the role of community parks within the City;

Burnie Showgrounds as having the potential capacity to become a future community park within the City and address a lack of such effective open space within the eastern part of the City;

the existing linear trails along West Beach, Burnie Park, Fern Glade Reserve, Romaine Reserve, Shorewell Reserve and within some of the linear open spaces; and

the potential for extending the linear open space and trails within the City including the foreshore between the town centre and Cooee²²; along the foreshore of South Burnie Beach and Wivenhoe Beach, along various creek reserves/alignments and existing roads.

TRANSFER OF OPEN SPACE LAND TO CRADLE WATER

As indicated previously, Council has transferred 25 land parcels of previous Council owned land that was classified open space land (Utility and Services Reserve) to Cradle Water. The overall assessment is that most of these lands parcels had limited recreational use as the land was primarily used for water and sewerage infrastructure (e.g. water storage, treatment plants, buffer area, pump houses). The exception would be Pet Reservoir at Ridgely, which is one of the larger land parcels (reservoir and buffer land) and a popular fishing location in the region. It is not expected that the transfer of the land parcels will necessarily alter the continuation of legal public use activities that were undertaken at these sites when managed by the Council. Consequently it is not considered that the Council will need to acquire additional open space to 'compensate' for the change of management ownership, but rather it may give added impetus to upgrading identified open space facilities in these general areas. For instance higher priority might be given to enhancing Ridgely

²² Burnie Council received \$375,000 support from the State Government Tasmania's Trails and Bikeway Project to support a major cycling project connecting the business districts of Cooee and Burnie .

Oval, Shorewell Park and Romaine Reserve as community parks given the change of land ownership of larger land areas near these open spaces.

SCHOOL PROPERTIES

The State Government's initiative to resolve public liability issues involved with allowing community use of grounds and facilities within State school properties is potentially a major benefit for improved open space opportunities within the City. Allowing greater community access to the facilities outside of school use times will help relieve some of the pressure on existing facilities and open space areas and compliment Council's network of open spaces across the City.

As part of the State Government's new \$10 million school development, there will be the merging of the Upper Burnie, Acton and Brooklyn primary schools into a new primary school linked to the Parklands High School. Council has asked for the land to be used strategically for Burnie's ongoing development²³. In assessing the future land use options for these sites, consideration should be given to:

the Upper Burnie primary school site is located close to the Upper Burnie retail area where there is limited accessible public open space, and there may be merit for part of the site to be utilized as a neighbourhood park as well as provide some open space and amenity close to the retail district (benefit to shoppers and workers using the area);

the Acton primary school site is located adjacent to a larger site used as an outdoor sports venue and there may be scope to add part of the rear land of the school site to create greater open space and amenity around the Acton recreation ground; and

the Brooklyn primary school site is located in an area where there is limited open space and a local neighbourhood park would help address this gap.

SURPLUS LAND

As indicated in Appendix A, not all the Council owned land could be assessed during the fieldwork investigations. However a few of the Council owned open space land areas were identified as having limited open space value. These are listed in Table 5.5:

²³ City of Burnie Media Release 24 April 2009.

Reference to Appendix A and Maps 5.1 and 5.2	Location	Assessed Classification	Reason
29	Hutchinson St	Amenity or could be sold	Fenced paddock with limited open space value
34	Mylan Cres	Neighbourhood Park or could be sold	Playground and attractive but could be rationalised to have either land block 34 or 41. Important to maintain link to Shorewell Creek.
41	Wiseman St	Neighbourhood Park or could be sold	Playground, trees, seat and links. Could be rationalised to have either land block 34 or 41. Important to maintain link to Shorewell Creek.

Table 5.5 : Potential Surplus Land

The reality is that much of the Council's open space assets have been taken for a purpose over time and have now been developed or utilized e.g. park, sportsgrounds, linkage, landscape, amenity, utility and services. Whilst some of the land may have limited open space value, the land may be required for a range of other purposes including public uses such as community centres, access lanes, carparking areas, amenity planting, drainage etc. Council should continue to review individual open space land areas as community needs for open space change or the provision and upgrading of other open space areas may render another area less useful for open space purposes.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

A review of State owned lands within the City indicated that there were some significant opportunities for the Council to potentially collaborate with the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) to ensure good open space management outcomes. The PWS priorities and budget is across the whole of the region and consequently there are often limited resources to upgrade and manage some of the smaller urban open spaces.

The key locations for a partnership approach between PWS and the Council for open space management are considered to be:

recreational access and conservation of the Cam River and foreshore;

management of the number of small foreshore land parcels at West Park as part of the overall master plan for the area;

recreational access, use and management of the South Burnie Beach and Wivenhoe Beach foreshore areas; and

recreational trail and conservation management in the Emu River – Fernglade Reserve river corridor and including the potential for a long distance trail along the river in the long term.

The preparation of a master plan for these areas would provide guidance for the extent of partnership arrangements and resource commitments. These areas are all important open space assets with the potential for further improvement (e.g. upgrade public facilities, trail development, interpretation) as effective open spaces in the City.

As indicated above, the Council should play an active role in working with the State Government to determine the best land use options for those schools properties that will be released in the future. The Council should also support the State Government's initiative to cover public liability risks and improve the opportunities for greater public access to school facilities and venues.

5.2.3 Overall Assessment of Needs

The main findings from that assessment are that:

the Council generally has an adequate area of open space incorporating a good range of open space types that are dispersed throughout the City and that generally cater well for the local population and visitors to these areas;

the Council should be strategic in its acquisition and development of foreshore open spaces at West Park, Cooe and Camdale where significant foreshore development opportunities are available to ensure that its requirements for linkages, foreshore access (physical and visual), open space and associated facilities are met whilst at the same time gaining economic outcomes from the development of these areas;

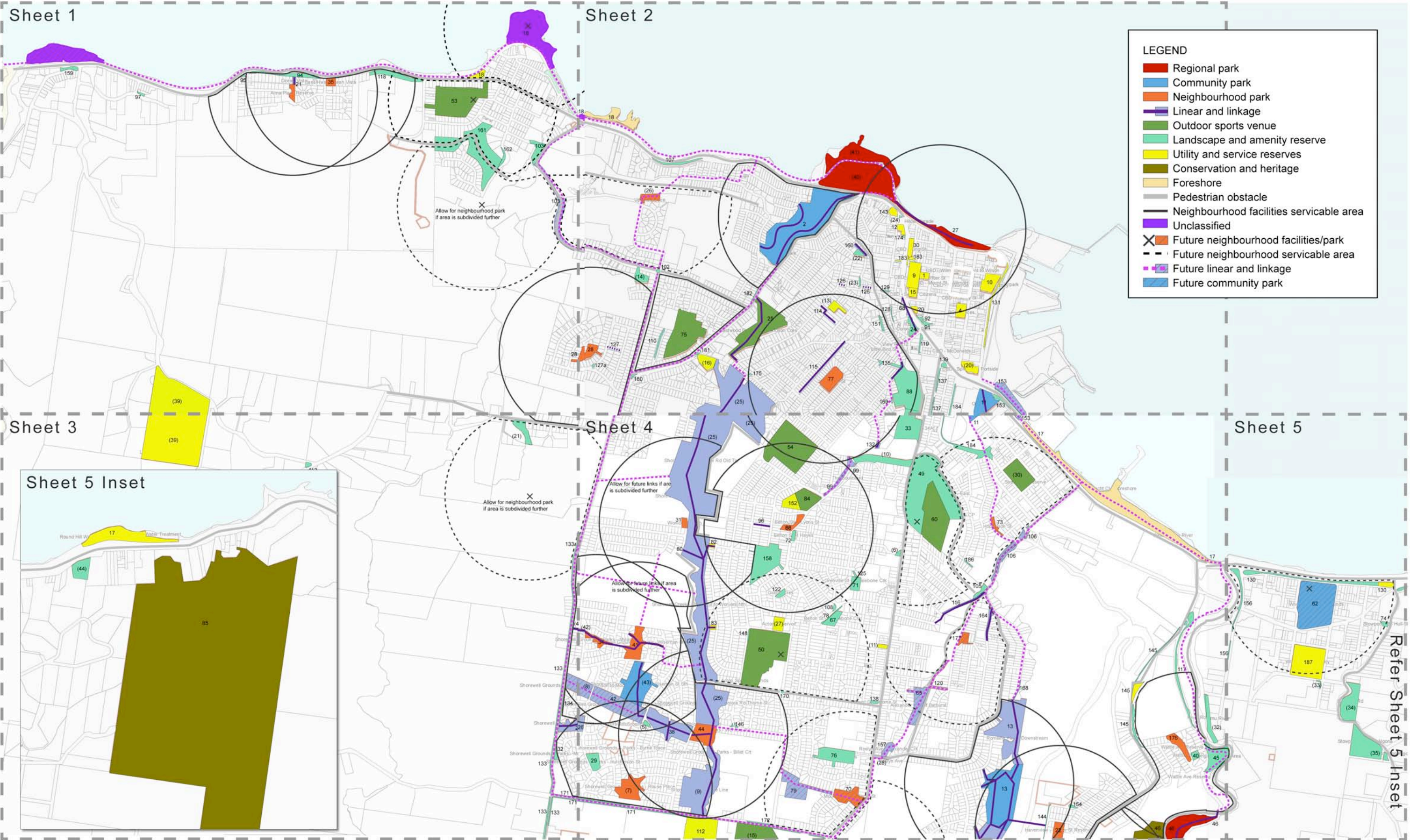
there is no need for Council to immediately acquire additional open space in developed areas, but land should be taken in expanding or new residential areas through the subdivision approval process for open space (particularly for local neighbourhood parks where there are none in the more immediate area) and trail links;

high priority should be given to the development of shared trails and improving pedestrian links, particularly the east-west link along the foreshore (including the potential for regional connections) and linkages that improve access between residential areas above the escarpment to the city centre/foreshore;

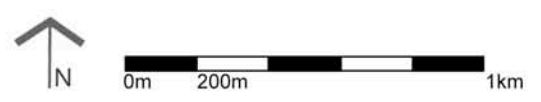
high priority should be given to the improvement of open space areas that will cater for the social/family needs of the community;

gaps in the provision of neighbourhood park facilities through Upper Burnie, Romaine, Brooklyn and Cooee areas should be addressed through the development and upgrading of existing open spaces to include appropriate facilities; and

there is a need for a program of continuous improvement of neighbourhood parks through provision of seating, planting of shade trees and installation of safety fencing where they abut unsafe situations (adjacent to roads, proximity to steep embankments or watercourses).



BURNIE OPEN SPACE
Map 5.1



Back of Map 5.1



LEGEND

- Regional park
- Community park
- Neighbourhood park
- Linear and linkage
- Outdoor sports venue
- Landscape and amenity reserve
- Utility and service reserves
- Conservation and heritage
- Foreshore
- Pedestrian obstacle
- Neighbourhood facilities servicable area
- Future neighbourhood facilities/park
- Future neighbourhood servicable area
- Future linear and linkage
- Future community park

BURNIE OPEN SPACE
Map 5.2



Back of map

CHAPTER 6

ACTION PLAN

6.1 RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The previous chapters have outlined the context and policy for open space planning and design within the City.

The following recommendations provide a guide to action in each of the open space categories within the City. The following direction is provided for each of the different open space typologies:

a recommended management strategy including any additional comments to assist with implementation;

responsibility for the implementation; and

priority based on:

- High – should be implemented within the next 2 years,
- Moderate – should be implemented within the next 5 years,
- Low - should be implemented within the next 10 years, and
- Ongoing – will require continuous commitment over time.

Numbers in the text refer to reference numbers provided by Council. Numbers in (brackets) are unique identifiers assigned by the current study to open spaces for which Council has ownership or care and which were not included in their list to the consultants.

The Action Plan (refer to Table 6.1) is considered to be a working tool and it is recognised that the implementation process may vary over time in response to available funding, level of community support and opportunities to secure new funding for the projects.

REGIONAL PARKS			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	<p>Continue to develop and implement the master plans for <u>West Park and Hilder Parade</u></p> <p>Ensure that the environmental values of the foreshore are protected and that foreshore rehabilitation continues.</p> <p>Ensure any proposals allow for the potential to create shared pathway linkages through the area to connect with local and regional trail systems.</p>	BCC as facilitator but with the co-operation of relevant government agencies and private investors	On-going
2	<p>Continue to implement <i>Fernglade Recreation and Conservation Reserve Management Plan 2006</i></p> <p>Give priority to the continued upgrading of visitor facilities.</p>	BCC	On-going. Review Master Plan 2011
3	Continue to implement the <u>Guide Falls and Pet Reservoir Management Plan</u> whilst recognising that some land and infrastructure at Pet Reservoir has been transferred to Cradle Water.	BCC	On-going. Review plan at 5 year intervals
COMMUNITY PARKS			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	Continue to implement the recommendations of the <u>Burnie Park Management Plan 2001</u>	BCC	On-going. The management plan is overdue for a 5-year review. Ensure a review is completed by 2011.
2	Develop a master plan for <u>Oakleigh Park</u> with a view to addressing issues of signage, parking, and pedestrian access from the CBD, user amenity and the potential for additional facilities.	BCC	Low
3	Prepare management and master plans for the <u>Wivenhoe Recreation Ground (Burnie Showgrounds)</u> . The master plan should examine ways to provide multiple use facilities for a range of user groups, whilst incorporating neighbourhood park facilities to support surrounding residences.	BCC and site stakeholders	Moderate.
4	<p>Prepare an urban design framework and master plan for the <u>Wiseman Street, Shorewell Community Park</u> area. These plans should seek to provide an integrated approach to the siting of public services, local shops, parks, linkages, etc. in conjunction with a review of the potential for further infill housing/development.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the consolidation of open space facilities in a single, well designed community park.</p>	BCC, DHHS and local community	High

COMMUNITY PARKS (continued)			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
5	Prepare a master plan for Romaine Reserve. In the interim, continue to implement the recommendations of the <i>Preliminary Open Space Strategy 1994</i>	BCC	High. The <i>Preliminary Open Space Strategy</i> is well out of date and should be reviewed as soon as possible.
6	Prepare a master plan for Riddley Reserve with a view to enhancing its role as a Community Park.	BCC	Low
7	Prepare a master plan for the <u>Upper Natone Reserve</u> with a view to enhancing its role as a Community Park	BCC	Low
NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	Master plans should be developed, in consultation with local residents, for all neighbourhood parks (including proposed sites) to give guidance on their continued improvements.	BCC	High
2	Progressively develop new neighbourhood parks, in consultation with local residents, in areas identified on Map 5.1 and 5.2 as a means of improving equity of access throughout the city. This would include the potential for establishing neighbourhood park facilities associated with the planned closure of the Brooklyn, Acton and Upper Burnie primary schools in the future.	BCC	High
3	Progressively upgrade existing neighbourhood parks to include greater amenity. Priority (in order of importance) should be given to safety fencing (where required), seats, shade, linking paths and signage. As an alternative to a park-by-park upgrade, consideration could be given to an element-by-element upgrade. That is signage, seating or shade trees could be rolled out across the whole network of neighbourhood parks using the 'sketch master plans' as a guide to location.	BCC	Moderate
4	Continue regular programme of playground and equipment monitoring and maintenance.	BCC	On-going
5	Consider review/extending service level agreements to improve weed management in neighbourhood parks (identified as an issue at many sites). Priorities should be established using the findings of <i>Burnie Weed Management Plan 2005</i> as a guide (where appropriate).	BCC	Moderate
6	Provision should be made for new neighbourhood parks in existing and expanding residential areas as shown on Maps 5.1 and 5.2, and in particular to meet the identified gaps in the Cooee, Brooklyn, Romaine and fringe developing areas	BCC and landowner	On-going

OUTDOOR SPORTING VENUES			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	Prepare a master plan for the <u>Les Clarke Oval</u> . A new bowls club development has occurred and consideration should be given the inclusion of neighbourhood play equipment amongst the range of facilities proposed for the site.	BCC	High
2	Prepare a master plan for the <u>Burnie Aquatic Centre/PCYC</u> site with a view to short term improvements to better integration between the facilities and improve linkages to the surrounding area, seating, signage, road presence, fencing and planting until such time a decision is made on the future of the proposed Aquatic Centre.	BCC	Moderate
3	Prepare a master plan for the <u>Acton Sportsground</u> . Consideration should be given to the provision of additional seating, perimeter fencing and fencing of play facilities and additional shade planting. The opportunity to add additional land to the reserve with the closure of Action primary school should be assessed in the future.	BCC	Moderate
4	Prepare a master plan for the <u>Montello Grounds</u> . Consideration should be given to improvements to vehicle access and parking, site landscaping, internal paths, and signage. It is noted that a new soccer club rooms have also been constructed at the grounds.	BCC	Moderate
5	Prepare a master plan for the <u>Stowport Recreation</u> ground that enhances its role for multiple sporting and community uses.	BCC	On-going
6	Prepare a master plan and landscape design for the <u>Wilfred Campbell Reserve/Upper Burnie Recreation Ground</u> that addresses the significant tourism opportunity at the lookout and improves the overall amenity of the reserve.	BCC	High
7	Examine opportunities to improve linkages to and through outdoor sporting venues as a means of improving health, reducing the impact of cars on the reserves and as alternative transport.	BCC	Moderate
8	Examine opportunities for continuous improvements to venues through improved seating, shade, safety fencing (where required) as well as opportunities to enhance multi-purpose use of grounds or surrounds (i.e. the addition of play equipment at highly used venues).	BCC	On-going
LANDSCAPE AND AMENITY			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	Continuously monitor outcomes from service level agreements and revise contracts to address issues of fuel reduction, lawn care, weed invasion, upkeep of mulch, etc. as they arise.	BCC	On-going
2	Review visually critical amenity reserves and prepare management plans (as has been done for Durham Road and Wilfred Campbell Reserve) to protect values.	BCC	Moderate

LANDSCAPE AND AMENITY (continued)			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
3	Audit engineering structures on a regular basis to ensure their safety (stability, fall height, other risks). Priority should be given to an examination of the block wall on the <u>Morse Street Nature Strip</u> (stability) and at <u>Hodgeman Street</u> (fall)	BCC	High and then on-going
4	Encourage involvement of local neighbours in the management of Landscape and Amenity reserves where possible.	BCC and local residents	Low
6	Examine opportunity to dispose of minor reserves that have little or no amenity value and that are excess to open space requirements including: • Wattle Place #40 • Amelia St./Seaview Ct. #22).	BCC	Low
7	Examine opportunities to plant additional trees to add to skyline/streetscape	BCC	Low
8	Examine opportunities to improve linkages to and through Landscape and Amenity reserves as a means of improving health, reducing the impact of cars on the reserves and as alternative transport.	BCC	Moderate
LINEAR AND LINKAGE			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	Priority for the development of new and/or upgraded shared trails should be given to: • <u>City-Hilder Parade-West Park</u> ; • <u>West Park to Cooe</u> ; and • <u>City-South Burnie Beach-Fernglade</u> ; as these serve to link key tourist destinations and community facilities.	BCC and stakeholders	High
2	Consideration should be given to upgrading/new links including: • the <u>Creative Pathway</u> along Mooreville Road (high priority given current level of planning and proposed road works) and linking via Brickport Road to Cooe or via Uplands Place and the escarpment to the City; • from Romaine Reserve north via Swanston <u>Street/Brooklyn Road</u> to the Esplanade (moderate – completes major linking trail network); • <u>Fernglade Reserve</u> to the foreshore; • from Burnie High School via existing open spaces (#55, #157, #120, #177, #116, #105, #106) to Brooklyn Road (low – overcomes safety concerns and enhances connection to major pedestrian movement generator); and • along the rail corridor from <u>Brooklyn Road to the CBD</u> via Oakleigh Park (moderate – provides important linkage from residential areas to the city along a reasonable gradient).	BCC	as noted
3	Prepare a trails strategy for the City to create a comprehensive and readily accessible trails network throughout the City. The aim of the strategy is to improve access to the CBD, regional and community parks and key sport/cultural facilities in the city by pedestrians and bicycles. Trails may include shared paths, pedestrian paths and/or on-road cycle lanes.	BCC (Sport and Recreation assistance may be available for this)	High

LINEAR AND LINKAGE (continued)			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
4	Maintain the existing network of Linear and Linkage reserves with a view to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategic upgrading of path network to achieve shared trail access into the CBD; and • providing additional amenity to path users including provision of shade, seating, lighting, mapping of routes, signage, general landscaping and interpretation. 	BCC	High
5	Prepare a master plan for the Shorewell Creek Corridor that considers : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the environmental values of the corridor and measures to maintain and enhance • exploration of opportunities for community involvement in the ongoing development of the corridor • development of an infrastructure plan with a focus on improving access/egress to the corridor and provision of facilities to support current and possible future activities within the corridor • measures to improve the linkage function of the corridor to the wider coastal pathway network. 	BCC	Moderate - Low
6	Provision for Linear and Linkage reserves through new subdivision should be made	BCC and landowners	On-going
7	Review risk hazards with the use of some existing linkages (passive surveillance) and informal linkages (across dangerous creek crossings) and make safe	BCC	High
8	Continuously monitor outcomes from service level agreements and revise contracts to address issues of fuel reduction, lawn care, weed invasion, upkeep of mulch, etc. as they arise	BCC	On-going
9	Consider development of a corporate signage/colour scheme to identify the City's extensive path network.	BCC	Moderate
FORESHORE AND WATERWAY			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	Prepare a master plan for the <u>South Burnie-Wivenhoe foreshore</u> . Amongst other things, consideration should be given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved shared pathway linkage(s) to Hilder Parade (west) and Fernglade (east); • revision of traffic and car park areas to better reflect levels of usage in the area • landscape improvements; and • removal of redundant facilities. 	BCC and stakeholders	High
2	Continuously monitor outcomes from service level agreements and revise contracts to address issues of fuel reduction, lawn care, weed invasion, upkeep of mulch, etc. as they arise.	BCC	On-going

CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	<p>Review and implement the recommendations for <u>Round Hill</u> in the <i>Preliminary Open Space Strategy 1994</i>.</p> <p>A master plan for the summit may be appropriate given the breadth of facilities there and the degradation that is occurring due to un-controlled vehicle movement.</p>	BCC	On-going. A review of the Management Plans is appropriate given the age of the current document and changes to threatened species and Aboriginal heritage legislation.
2	Continue to implement the <i>Fernglade Recreation and Conservation Reserve Management Plan 2006</i>	BCC	On-going. Review Master Plan 2011
UTILITY AND SERVICES			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	<p>Continuously monitor outcomes from service level agreements and revise contracts to address issues of lawn care, weed invasion, upkeep of mulch, fuel reduction, etc. as they arise.</p> <p>Particular care and attention should be given to reserves in the CBD.</p>	BCC	On-going
2	Examine opportunities to plant additional trees/native vegetation to add value skyline/streetscape and or for urban maintenance purposes (i.e. climate amelioration, water quality maintenance, air pollution control and or stormwater management)	BCC	Low
3	Look for opportunities improve the overall appearance of these reserves through upgrading of security fencing and re-painting of vandalised surfaces, removal/ replacement of deteriorating or failing site furniture.	BCC	Low
4	Examine opportunities to improve linkages to and through utility reserves as a means of improving health, reducing the impact of cars on the reserves and as alternative transport.	BCC	Low
UNCLASSIFIED OPEN SPACE			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
1	<p>Council is in the process of determining future use options for the <u>Cooee foreshore area and Camdale foreshore area</u> and requested that these areas remain unclassified open space until the preferred land use options are agreed upon.</p> <p>Amongst other things, any open space consideration should be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved shared pathway linkage(s); • construction of formal car parking/access points including consolidated directional and interpretive signage; • landscape improvements; and • removal of redundant facilities. 	BCC	Moderate

UNCLASSIFIED OPEN SPACE (continued)			
Ref No.	Management Strategy	Responsibility	Priority
2	<p>Prepare a urban design framework and master plan for the <u>Camdale Foreshore</u>. The plan should include flora and fauna, Aboriginal heritage, traffic, infrastructure and climate change assessments to identify risks that might limit the types of development that can occur on the site</p> <p>The plan should explore a mix of open spaces (foreshore, protected parkland) and allow for the creation a shared pathway to connect with local and regional pathways.</p> <p>The plan should also consider how land owned by the City of Burnie might be integrated with that across the Cam River in Warratah-Wynyard including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how open space needs for the area might be met jointly; and • the development of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge separate to the highway. • Such consideration may mean that some portion of the available land could be developed for other purposes. 	BCC with possible input from Waratah-Wynyard Council	High.

Table 6.1 : Action Plan

6.2 INDICATIVE COST AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

An indicative assessment of cost and resource implications has been prepared for the Action listed in Section 6.1. The assessment is focused on the priorities for bridging the gap between the current open space system and the proposed further development of the open space system. Consequently it does not cover existing resource and management costs but rather the additional budget and resource requirements to implement the Action Plan.

Table 6.2 sets out the indicative cost and resource implication for each of the actions listed in the Action Plan. The costs are indicative only and are based on average costs for similar scale of works undertaken with other open space areas in the past across the State.

The key findings are:

Council will need to continue with its current budget allocations to maintain the existing open space areas that it owns and manages;

the preparation of master plans and management plans for its 8 community parks would require funding in the order of about \$200,000 over a four year period (2 plans per year);

the preparation of master plans and management plans for its 18 neighbourhood parks would require funding in the order of about \$90,000 over a three year period (6 plans undertaken as one planning process per year);

the development of 6 new neighbourhood parks in the new developing areas may require about \$1.26m over the next 20 years with offsetting of some costs through developer contributions in new subdivisions;

the preparation of master plans and management plans for its 6 outdoor sporting venues would require funding in the order of about \$150,000 over a six year period (1 plan per year);

allowance of \$50,000 for the preparation of an overall trails strategy for the City; and

allowance of \$30,000 for the preparation of a foreshore master plan for South Burnie Beach – Wivenhoe Beach foreshore.

Apart from the development of six new neighbourhood parks, the above costs are an investment by Council in ensuring there is good strategic planning and management of the open space system within the City in the future. The preparation of master plans and management plans will provide Council with the basis to prepare more detailed costings on the priorities for upgrading existing open spaces and facilities over time.

The overall costs may be reduced through the Council successfully targeting projects to available Federal and State Government funding programs, use of allocations of funding from developer contributions towards open space and entering into partnership arrangements with other stakeholders.

Action Reference	Brief Summary of Action	Indicative Cost	Resource Implications
Regional Parks			
1-3	Implementation of existing master and management plans for selected regional parks	As per plans	Part of the existing budget process
Community Parks			
2, 3, 4, 5 6, 7	Prepare master plan for selected community park sites		
1	Implementation of existing master and management plans for selected 8 community parks	\$200,000	Stage the plans over a 4 year period allowing for 2 plans to be prepared each year. Costs for upgrading and improvements to be determined in plans.
Neighbourhood Parks			
1	Prepare master plans for all existing neighbourhood parks (18 listed in Appendix A)	\$90,000	Allow \$30,000 for the preparation of joint preparation of 6 master plans (east, west and central) over three years. Costs for upgrading and improvements to be determined by plans.
2, 3, 4, 5	Upgrade existing open space to become more effective as neighbourhood parks and provide regular upgrade of neighbourhood parks and facilities	Existing and future budgets	Part of the existing budget process. A budget of \$5,000 - \$10,000 may be required for upgrading signage, shade tree plantings. Seating and safety fencing for any park.
6	Establish new neighbourhood parks in newly developing areas (6) including play equipment, seating, landscaping, safety fencing, signs, rubbish bins, paths.	\$210,000 per park	Land acquired through subdivision approval with site development from Council budget based on \$10,000 site plan and \$200,000 for development. This may be a cost to be spread over the next 20 years of urban development within the City and be offset by developer contributions.
Outdoor Sporting Venues			
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Prepare master plans for selected outdoor sporting venues (6)	\$150,000	Staging of plans over 6 years with one master plan to be prepared each year. Costs for upgrading and improvements to be determined in plans.
7, 8	Opportunities to improve linkages and continuous improvements to facilities	Existing budgets	Part of the existing budget process
Landscape and Amenity			
1-8	Ongoing management and monitoring of the landscape and amenity open spaces	Existing budgets	Part of the existing budget process

Action Reference	Brief Summary of Action	Indicative Cost	Resource Implications
Linear and Linkage			
1,2	Major trail works along the foreshore and cross-city within the City	Existing and future budgets including government funding assistance	Detailed cost estimates would be required to be prepared resulting from design, documentation and tendering process
3	Prepare trails strategy for the City	\$50,000	Should be considered as an investment to position Council strongly for future government assistance for recreational trails.
4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Ongoing management and monitoring of the existing network of trails and opportunities for linkage	Existing budgets	Part of the existing budget process
Foreshore and Waterway			
1	Prepare a master plan for the South Burnie Beach – Wivenhoe Beach foreshore	\$30,000	Costs for upgrading and improvements to be determined in plan.
3	Ongoing management and monitoring	Existing budgets	Part of the existing budget process
Conservation and Heritage			
1, 2	Implementation of existing strategy and management plans for Round Hill and Fernglade Reserve	As per plans	Part of the existing budget process
Utility and Services			
1, 2,3, 4	Ongoing management which will have been reduced with transfer of 25 land parcels to Cradle Water	Existing budgets	Part of the existing budget process
Unclassified Open Space			
1	Dependent upon Council's assessment of land use options for these two sites	Existing budgets	Part of the existing budget process

Table 6.2 Indicative Costs and Resource Implications

APPENDIX A

SITE INVENTORY

SITE INVENTORY

Note, reference numbers in the inventory refer to the list of open spaces provided by Council to the consultants. Numbers in (brackets) are unique numbers assigned to open spaces identified by the current study for which Council has ownership or responsibility for management.

REGIONAL PARKS			
Ref	Site	Description	Map
27	Hilder Parade	Link, foreshore, BBQ, sports.	2
46	Fernglade Reserve	Picnic facilities. See also BUSHLAND	4 / 7 / 8
46a	Guide Falls	Picnic facilities.	9
(40)	West Park		2
(41)	West Park Foreshore		2
COMMUNITY PARKS			
Ref	Site	Description	Map
2	Burnie Park		2
11	Oakleigh Park	Also linkway to CBD.	2 / 4
13	Romaine Reserve	Also see LINKWAY	4 / 6 / 7
62	Wivenhoe Show Grounds	FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK. Currently used for trotting, cricket and show.	5
(43)	Shorewell Park (Wiseman Street)	BBQ, basket ball court, toilet.	4
56	Natone Grounds	FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK. Principle open space for service settlement. Existing range of facilities	10
57	Ridgley Oval	FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK. Principle open space for service settlement. Existing range of facilities	9

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Ref	Site	Description	Map
21	Alma Place	Link to Bass Hwy is Reidentalised.	1
22	Barker St	"Havenview / Barker St Reserve".	4 / 7
28	Hillfarm Drive	Big views to south. Open, grassed.	1 / 2
31	Malonga / Woniora Rd (Nth Playground)	Neighbourhood	4
34	Mylan Cres	Playground, attractive. Maintain link.	4
35	Ocean Vista Grounds	New fence, fountain, perimeter garden. Drainage issues.	1
41	Wiseman St	Playground, trees, seat, links. Maintain link.	4
44	Woniora Rd	Playground, seat, links, powerline easement, creek reserve.	4
66	Belton St	Gloomy. Could be further developed.	4
70	Greenacre St	FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK. Powerline easement, linkway potential, creek.	4
73	Hopkinson St	FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK. Grass with trees. Backs onto rail.	4
77	Jorgenson St	Large grassed park with playgrounds.	2
90	Wirilda Drive	FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK. Powerline easement & water storage. Option for linkway. Also see UTILITY.	6
155	Ridgley Highway Nature Strip	FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK. Old rail station, abandoned space.	9
176	Wattle Ave Reserve	Playground and forested reserve, access difficult, stairs, steep.	4
177	Wembley St	FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK. North facing open space, hilly, views, difficult access.	4
(7)	Rouse Place	Good park. Potential for community sized park.	4
(26)	Kalina Cres	FUTURE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK. Possible linkway.	2

LINEAR AND LINKAGE			
Ref	Site	Description	Map
13	Romaine Reserve	Also see COMMUNITY	4 / 6 / 7
26	Garner Crt	Creek line and Substation.	3 / 4
38	Viney St Park	Powerline easement, links, grassed.	4
42	Wright St	FUTURE LINKWAY. Powerline easement.	4
65	Bathurst St	FUTURE LINKWAY. "Alexander Crk - off Bathurst". Steep, creek.	4
68	Charles St	Link from Coronation Park to Jones Street.	2
79	Madden St	FUTURE LINKWAY, Links to 70, powerline easement.	4
80	Malonga Dr / Woniora Rd North Boardwalk	Boardwalk link into Shorewell Creek linkway.	4
96	Bell / Payne St to Sampson St	Not sighted	4
98	Blackwood Pde / Sassafras Cres PAWs	Not sighted	7
99	Boulevard Nature Strips	FUTURE LINKWAY. There are more than one of these- refer to survey forms. Should be maintained by businesses. Add footpath for school access.	4
103	Brickport Rd Crib Block	FUTURE LINKWAY. Includes- verges, wall, road cutting and footpath (16-16c & 17 on survey form). Also see AMENITY	1
106	Brooklyn Rd Verges	Confluence of creeks, stone walls and footpath, rail crossing industrial area.	4
114	Elizabeth St / Grandview Ave PAW	Retained path, grassed walls, vehicular.	4
115	Farquhar St / View Rd Laneway	Retain laneway	2
116	Federal St PAW	Link from Federal to Brooklyn and Whitford. Path runs along creek edge. Poor crossing at Brooklyn.	4
120	Flinders St	FUTURE LINKWAY. North facing, hilly, great views, informal link along creek.	4
126	Harrison St Laneway	Not sighted	2
127	Hillfarm Dr / Hambledon Ave Laneway	Laneway.	4
132	Medbury Cres / Montello Primary School	Not sighted	4
136	Mount St - South	Link for kids from school. Nature strip and path. Also see AMENITY	6
153	Portside Landscape	FUTURE LINKWAY. Links from foreshore on east of CBD to CBD.	2
157	Roslyn Ave	FUTURE LINKWAY. Creek. Potential part of NS linkway.	4
160	Seaview Ave to Amelia St PAW	Link from Seaview to Amelia.	2
164	Spencer St	Creek easement. Concrete path, views.	4
168	Swanston St	FUTURE LINKWAY. Nature strip.	4

(3)	O'Grady / Romaine reserve PAW	Link through farmland and plantation trees.	4
(8)	Hutchinson to Mooreville	FUTURE LINKWAY. Large powerlines.	4
(9)	Three Mile Line Sports Ground	Potential for community park but shady and water logged. Disused sports elements. Portion to be used for future housing development (Council transferring land)	4
(25)	Griffith St to View Rd	Creek with walking/cycling track. View Rd end old tip.	2 / 4
(28)	Roslyn Ave / Mount nature strip	FUTURE LINKWAY. Grassed nature strip backs onto school sports grounds. Could become part of greater link.	4
(42)	Mooreville Rd / Mylan Cres		3 / 4

OUTDOOR SPORTS VENUE

Ref	Site	Description	Map
25	Eastwood Reserve	Car parking, tennis courts, linkway, creek reserve runs through.	2
50	Acton Sports Grounds		4
53	Les Clarke Oval	Outdoor exercise equipment. New bowls club development.	1
54	Montello Grounds	Soccer.	4
60	Upper Burnie Grounds	Indoor and out, possible neighbourhood facilities.	4
63	Stowport Grounds	Retain as low use sportsground. Seek additional multi-purpose uses.	8
75	Howe St Netball Courts	Play equipment.	2
84	Olympic Pool - Outside	Includes outside of PCYC. Should be integrated with facilities to provide seating.	4
(15)	McKenna Park Regional Hockey Complex	Hockey.	4 / 6
(30)	South Burnie Bowls	Bowls.	4

LANDSCAPE AND AMENITY RESERVE

Ref	Site	Description	Map
5	CBD - Cattley St		2
6	CBD - Wilson St - Wilmot to Cattley		2
7	CBD - Wilmot St - Mount to Wilson		2
8	CBD - Mount St - Wilmot to Cattley		2
24	Coronation Park	Historical park ex colonial cemetery. Steep land.	2
29	Hutchinson St	Fenced paddock.	4

32	Mooreville Rd	Gully corner. Well treed and weedy.	3
33	Mount St Seat Council Land	Seat next to road, adjoins steep amenity along VDL Hill.	2 / 4
40	Wattle Place	Turfed informal roundabout. Retain for use as parking by properties with limited onsite parking/limited access.	4
45	Fernglade Picnic Area	Picnic tables, car parking, dog off leash.	4 / 5
49	Wilf Campbell Hill	Lookout, car parking forested.	4
67	Belton St / Linton St	Steep land down to creek.	4
71	Grenville St	Heavily treed and weedy gully. Access via narrow laneway.	4
72	Hayes St	Wide nature strip with small retaining wall.	4
74	Hull St Cul-de-sac	Steep forested bank.	5
76	Jacobs Cres	Steep, future link.	4
78	Linton St Nature Strip	Grass strip at top of bank.	4
81	Manuka Dr Hill	Boardwalk link into Shorewell Creek linkway.	4
88	VDL Hill	Includes linkway running past to town.	2
91	Alexander St	Grassed area at end of street under Hwy.	2
92	Alexander St Roundabout	Roundabout.	2
94	Arthur / Kennedy St Bank	Road reserve. Possible linkway.	1
95	Bass Highway Nature Strips	Grassed nature strip.	1
97	Besser Cres	Nature Strips.	1
102	Brickport Rd / Futuna Ave	Roundabout.	2
103	Brickport Rd Crib Block	Includes- verges, wall, road cutting and footpath (16-16c & 17 on survey form). See also LINKWAY	1
105	Brooklyn Rd near PAW	Blue Gum bank,	4
107	Buttons Avenue and Wall	Wall and nature strip.	2
108	Cabot / Linton St Nature Strip	Grassed road verge. Steps to no-where.	4
110	Chanel St	Long road island maintained by residents.	2
113	East Cam / West Mooreville Rd	Not Sighted	3
117	Fernglade Rd	Road edge. Tea Tree forest adjacent to creek.	4
118	Fidler/ Arthur St Nature Strips	Nature strips.	1
119	Fleming Ct	High stone wall with footpath and gardens on top.	2
121	George St	Nature strip.	

122	Gracie Cres Council Land	Grassed "roundabout" large enough for local play equipment.	4
127a	Hillfarm Dr / Mills Rd Island	Grassed traffic island.	1 / 2
128	Hodgman St Crib Block Wall		2
129	Jones St	Planted nature strip, foot path.	
130	Main Road Wivenhoe	Island between Hwy and Main Rd, trees, grass, info booth (unattractive). Also see UTILITY	5
133	Mooreville Rd	Rural road nature strip.	3 / 4 / 6
134	Mooreville Rd Crib Block		3
135	Morse St Nature Strip	Path between houses, crib block wall & nature strip.	2
136	Mount St - South	Link for kids from school. Nature strip and path. Also see LINKWAY	6
137	Mount St - North	Steep embankment adjacent to road dropping down to back gardens.	2
138	Mount St - Thorne St	Road verge corner. Trees in grass.	4
139	Mount St / Moody St	Nature strip.	2
144	O'Grady St Verges	Grassed nature strip.	4 / 7
145	Old Surrey Rd	Nature strip, trees, some footpath, Concrete SW drain. Also see UTILITY	4
146	Payne / Griffith St	Grassed road corner with footpath.	4
148	Payne St Nature Strips		4
151	Pleasant St Bank	Steep bank between View Rd and Pleasant St.	4
154	Reservoir Street	Corner landscape. Turf and 1 shrub.	4
156	River Road Verges	Riverbank, trees, view could be opened up from Hwy to river.	5
158	Sampson St (End of) Council Land	Not accessible fenced with cows.	4
159	Scarfe St Nature Strip	Nature strip / wedge with bus stop and signage, trees etc.	1
161	Shepton Park	Fire management access (Durham Rd/ Panorama Cres).	1
162	Shepton Park Nature Strips and Bank	Grassed bank.	1
169	Thompson Cres	Traffic island.	2
170	Thorne / Madden St Roundabout	Roundabout.	4
171	Three Mile Line - West	Nature strip.	3 / 4
172	Three Mile Line Rd - East	Nature strips.	4
174	Upper Bourke St Cul-de-sac	Garden bed adjacent to child care and Hwy sound wall.	2
175	View Rd / Ross St Island	Grassed traffic island, power pole.	2

180	West Park Grove / Brickport Rd	Nature strip.	2
181	West Park Grove / View Island Rd Island	Grassed traffic island.	2
182	West Park Grove Crib Block Wall	Not Sighted	2
184	Wilson St Nature Strip	Garden beds, car parking, path.	2 / 4
186	Young St Nature Strip	Nature strip.	4
(5)	Lorymer to Wright St Corner, Shorewell Park	Road island with seat and landscape.	4
(6)	Mount and Sutton	Slopes down from mount, big eucs, footpath with barrier at top. SW gully at bottom.	4
(10)	Aileen Street "Montello Gully"	Heavily planted gully maintained by bush care group.	4
(14)	Brickport Rd near roundabout	Not Sighted	2
(19)	Nth Tce / Marine tce	Not Sighted	2
(21)	West Mooreville Rd near Jordan	Gully. Not sighted	3
(22)	Seaview / Amelia	Fenced grassed block. Potential to sell as residential.	2
(23)	Harrison St Nature Strip	Grassed, weedy, steep nature strip.	2
(24)	Bass / Queen	Traffic island and lights.	2
(32)	River Rd / Emu River	Forested river bank.	4 / 5
(33)	Smith / Ormsby nature strip	Grassed some trees.	5
(34)	Stowport Rd	Forested bank and gully.	5
(35)	Stowport Rd opp Algonia	Forested Gully.	5
(36)	Mt Rd / Ridgley Hwy nature strip	Not Sighted	9
(44)	Round Hill / Main Rd	Nature strip to bush block.	5

UTILITY AND SERVICES RESERVE

Ref	Site	Description	Map
1	Alexander St Child Care Centre		2
4	BCC Offices		2
9	Civic Centre		2
10	Multistorey Car Park		2
12	Queen St Child Care Centre	Child care centre and car park.	2
15	Senior Citizens Centre		2
17	East of CBD (inc Chasm Creek Area)	Foreshore, part of greater city linkway. Includes sewage treatment. Also see FORESHORE	4 / 5
20	Alexander St Car Park	End near Hwy overpass.	2
30	King St Car Park		2
47	Ridgley Community Centre	Community centre with nice garden, car park and avenue.	9
82	Ogden St (laneway off end)	Laneway access to back of blocks along creek reserve.	4
83	Ogden St (laneway off end)	Laneway access to back of blocks along creek reserve.	4
89	West Mooreville Rd Area	Community centre and grounds.	6
90	Wirilda Drive	Powerline easement & water storage. Option for linkway. Also see NEIGHBOURHOOD.	6
112	Depot Lawns and Gardens	Council works depot.	4 / 6
130	Main Road Wivenhoe	Island between Hwy and Main Rd, trees, grass, info booth (unattractive). Also see UTILITY	5
131	Marine Terrace Railway Side	Between Tce and rail	2
183	Wilmot St	Carpark landscape.	2
187	Wivenhoe Cemetery	Gravel, treed grass verges to surrounding streets.	5
188	Ridgley Cemetery	Cemetery.	9
(11)	Upper Burnie Memorial Hall and Toilets	No landscape.	4
(16)	Abbeyfield House	Aged care centre grounds.	2
(20)	Spring St / Portside	Ports building adult ed.	2
(37)	Off Mt Rd Ridgley	Not Sighted	9
(39)	Lawn cemetery		1 / 3

CONSERVATION

Ref	Site	Description	Map
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46	Fernglade Reserve	Picnic facilities. See also SIGNIFICANT	4 / 7 / 8
85	Roundhill Grounds (RHWTP)	Reserve, lookout.	5

FORESHORE

Ref	Site	Description	Map
17	East of CBD (inc Chasm Creek Area)	Foreshore, part of greater city linkway. Includes sewage treatment. Also see UTILITY	4 / 5

UNCLASSIFIED

Ref	Site	Description	Map
23	Camdale Reserve	FUTURE COMMUNITY PARK. Old meat works, sheltered, foreshore access.	1
18	Cooee Point Area	Industrial wasteland with utility building (electrical?). Car parking for beach access, sculpture.	1
18	Cooee Point Area	Abattoir site. Dog exercise, walking Ex petrol station, rocky headland. Also see UTILITY	1 / 2

APPENDIX B

SITE SURVEYS

Site surveys were completed for all of the Council open spaces identified to the team by Councils. A sample of the form used follows. Individual sheets were completed for reference only.

The surveys included:

- brief descriptions of the parcel and key attributes and constraints;

- general assessments of appearance, accessibility, facilities, safety and maintenance;

- overall assessments of recreation, conservation and amenity values;

- recommendations for management actions;

- a checklist of future options as to the maintenance, upgrading, disposal, rationalisation, etc. of the site; and

- photographs of each site.

OPEN SPACE SURVEY**JULY 2008**

Site Name: Tenure

Location: Area:

EXISTING FACILITIES

Car parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	Picnic facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other/Comments:
Seating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking tracks	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public toilets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boat ramp	<input type="checkbox"/>	Picnic tables	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rubbish bins	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jetty	<input type="checkbox"/>	Signs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sporting facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>		

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Condition of facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation conflict	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other/comments:
Pedestrian access	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety/risk hazards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare Master Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vehicular access/ parking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Management of natural values	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Limited maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>		

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Recreation Value	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation Value	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amenity Value	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utility Value	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

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FUTURE OPTIONS

Maintain as is	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade and enhance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dispose / find alternative use	<input type="checkbox"/>
Link with other open space	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uncertain - further review	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other option	

Insert Photo

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

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APPENDIX C

BURNIE CITY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE CATEGORIES

This Appendix sets out descriptions for the eight categories of open space proposed for the City of Burnie, those being:

1. Park;
2. Sport;
3. Landscape and Amenity;
4. Linear and Linkage;
5. Foreshore and Waterway;
6. Conservation and Heritage;
7. Utilities and Services; and
8. Undeveloped/unclassified.

For each different category of open space (with exception of undeveloped/unclassified open space) , a description is provided for:

defining the open space category;

the purposes of the open space category;

the amenities, which may need to be provided;

the indicative sizes of open space; and

the management issues often found with the management of the open space category.

1 . P A R K S

Parks are defined as open space sites, which have been developed to meet a range of non-competitive recreational pursuits in a predominantly informal setting.

Parks include playgrounds, ornamental gardens, vantage points and lookouts. They support activities such as walking, cycling, in-line skating, BMX, dog exercise, children's and adult play, picnicking, sightseeing, social and cultural events, artistic activities and relaxing.

Indoor recreation facilities and support amenities such as halls, tourism destinations, clubs, toilets etc. are often provided in association with Parks.

Example Regional Park – West Park/Hilder Parade, Fernglade, Guide Falls

Examples of Community Parks - Burnie Park, Romaine Reserve

Examples of Neighbourhood Parks – Jorgenson Street Reserve and numerous other examples

Purposes

The purposes of Parks are:

- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to pursue a wide range of predominantly self-managed informal, passive and active non-competitive recreational and educational activities at the local, sub-municipal, municipal and regional level;
- to provide support facilities for those using the sites e.g.: toilet/change facilities, social and management facilities, play equipment and picnic/ barbeque areas;
- to provide venues for a range of other occasional uses including fairs, civic events and similar activities;
- to provide sites capable of use for flood mitigation and for community gathering points at times of civic emergency; and
- to provide for other open space categories which are able to co-locate with Parks(e.g. Linear and Linkage, Landscape and Amenity, and Conservation and Heritage open spaces).

Amenities

The specific amenities, which may need to be provided in Parks will vary depending on the size, predominant uses, and other nearby land uses. Those, which should be considered are:

- a. Picnic and barbeques facilities (Community Parks);
- b. Club and social rooms (Community Parks);
- c. Weather shelters and shade (Neighbourhood and Community Parks);
- d. Play equipment, seating and safety fencing (where required) (Neighbourhood and Community Parks);
- e. Lighting for improved access and security (Neighbourhood and Community Parks);
- e. Signs indicating the venue name and use regulations (Neighbourhood and Community Parks);
- f. Rubbish bins (Neighbourhood and Community Parks);
- g. Food services support points (e.g.: power, water, phone) (Community Parks); and
- h. Tourist and information services (Community Parks).

Indicative Sizes

Parks should be of a size, which allows use flexibility and diversity across an array of activities, needs and ages. Wherever possible, single use provision should be avoided or designed out. Council has indicated it would prefer to have fewer parks of a suitable size for a range of community uses rather than manage and maintain many smaller 'pocket' size parks. There may be the opportunity to co-locate community facilities within open space areas.

Ideally, all new provision initiatives should seek to achieve the following sizes, although intensity of development can offset the disadvantages of smaller sites:

Neighbourhood: 0.3 - 0.5 hectares minimum

Community: 2 hectare minimum

Management Issues

Specific management issues associated with Parks include:

1. Achieving a diversity of site characteristics and uses;
2. Pursuing design and provision standards which are appropriate to the uses being made of the reserves and to the character of the areas in which they are located; and
3. Enhancement of safety.

2. OUTDOOR SPORTS VENUES

Sports open spaces are defined as sites used for active, competitive recreation. In Burnie they include sports grounds used for a wide range of team and individual competitions, outdoor sports courts and outdoor pools.

Sports open spaces can have a range of other recreation facilities and support amenities associated with them including halls and sports stadia, club rooms, management buildings, toilet/change facilities, and informal gardens.

Examples – Les Clarke Oval, Montello Grounds, Upper Burnie Grounds

Purposes

The purposes of Sports open spaces are to provide:

- opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in formal, structured, competitive recreational and educational activities at the local, sub-municipal, municipal and regional level;
- opportunities for residents to watch and spectate sporting competitions;
- appropriate support facilities for sports participants and spectators e.g.: toilet/change, social and management facilities; informal lawns; play equipment; picnic/barbeque areas;
- venues for a range of other occasional uses including fairs, civic events and similar activities and as refuges, marshalling points and emergency services bases in times of civil disaster (e.g. flood and fire); and

- for other open space categories which are able to co-locate with sports e.g.: Linear and Linkage, Parks and Conservation and Heritage open spaces.

Amenities

The specific amenities to be provided at or in association with Sports open spaces will depend on the roles for which the open spaces are being managed. Sports open spaces serving regional competitions and championships will generally have greater provision of and more substantial amenities than those serving local markets. Non-urban sports open spaces often require more amenities than some sub-regional or local sports open spaces in urban areas because of the comparative lack of other opportunities.

The specific amenities, which should be assessed for provision at Sports open spaces are:

- a. Club, umpires and social rooms;
- b. Spectator areas;
- c. Weather shelters;
- d. Lighting for improved access, security and night training;
- e. Signs indicating the venue name and user groups and contact numbers, use regulations;
- f. Parking for officials, players and spectators;
- g. Ground maintenance equipment storage;
- h. Food and water services;
- i. Toilets;
- j. Rubbish bins; and
- k. Security and entry control fencing.

Indicative Sizes

Sports open spaces should be of a size, which offers use flexibility and a diversity of sports; which facilitates and/or can accommodate long term growth and change of uses, and which enables and facilitates the co-location of uses. This will optimise utilities provision and the provision of change/social facilities, parking, lighting etc. Wherever possible, single use provision should be avoided or designed out in favour of multiple use of the facilities.

The level of provision of facilities for individual sports should reflect research into the minimum number needed to provide for viable competition and/or viable user clubs.

The following minimum site sizes are recommended:

Local:	1.5 hectares minimum
Municipal:	1.6-10 hectares minimum
Regional:	10 hectares minimum

Management Issues

Specific management issues associated with Sports open spaces include:

1. Protection and maintenance of sports facilities and support amenities at standards appropriate to the level of competition they are used for;
2. Minimising conflict between different users and control of inappropriate and non-sports uses; and
3. Increasing use through sharing and better programming.

3. LANDSCAPE AND AMENITY RESERVES

Landscape and Amenity open spaces are defined as sites which have landscape and amenity features and value which warrant reservation and protection ahead of use for other purposes.

Landscape and Amenity open spaces include buffer areas between differing land use types, small garden and tree plantings in urban and rural areas, land

which is protected to provide scenic views, and ridge lines which provide a backdrop to urban or other land uses.

Examples – Durham Road, Wilfred Campbell Reserve

Purposes

The purposes of Landscape and Amenity open spaces are:

- to protect open spaces which have landscape and amenity significance at the local, sub-municipal, municipal and regional level;
- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate the landscape, and amenity assets of the City;
- to enhance the setting and quality of urban and rural environments;
- to provide opportunities for educational and scientific study and research
- to provide high quality environments for a limited array of recreational activities including walking, nature study and sightseeing; and
- to provide for other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with, Landscape and Amenity open spaces (e.g. Linear and Linkage open space and Conservation and Heritage open space).

Amenities

The amenities provided at Landscape and Amenity open spaces will depend on the predominant nature and purpose of each site and other nearby land uses. Lookouts and other viewing facilities may also warrant consideration.

Indicative Sizes

Indicative sizes cannot generally be specified for Landscape and Amenity open spaces as they will be determined by:

- a. The attributes of the landscape and/or amenity resource;
- b. The size of the area required to protect the resource, and/or;

- c. The area required to ensure site and resource sustainability.

In all instances, the larger and more “complete” the site, the better is its capacity to provide the values and benefits for which it has been reserved.

Management Issues

Specific management issues associated with Landscape and Amenity open spaces include:

1. Ensuring compliance with any State, national and international agreements and covenants for resource protection; and
2. Ensuring that surrounding land uses do not compromise the integrity of the reserves.

4. LINEAR AND LINKAGE

Linear and Linkage open space are defined as cycle and pedestrian paths, off- and on-road cycling reservations, unused road and rail reservations, service easements which provide linear reserves and routes. It also includes small pathways and routes, which provide links to other open spaces or other public and community venues (e.g. to shops, schools, residential areas). Linear and Linkage open spaces are predominantly for human use, but may also serve as wildlife corridors.

Where possible, Council should avoid the use of long narrow linkages (less than 3m) given safety concerns, especially where such linkages are not lit at night.

Examples – Ridgley Road to Romaine Reserve, Three Mile Road Burnie Park

Purposes

The purposes of Linear and Linkage open spaces are:

- to provide safe opportunities for residents and visitors to walk, cycle and as appropriate ride horses or motorised vehicles for short, medium and long distances;
- to support recreational use and travel to work, school, shopping and other destinations;

- to provide access *to* and *between* other open spaces and activity nodes (e.g.: sports reserves, informal parks, lookouts, indoor venues), and between other land uses (e.g.: residential, retail and work places);
- to enhance urban and rural amenity and to provide land use buffers;
- to provide opportunities for urban, conservation and ecosystem observation and study; and
- to provide for other open space categories which benefit from co-location with Linear and Linkage (e.g. Conservation and Heritage, Foreshore and Waterway).

Where possible, and particularly in urban areas, Linear and Linkage open spaces used for recreation should ideally have:

1. Return loops and circuits; and
2. Exit routes or points that allow users to escape or avoid personal attack, fire, flood or other dangerous conditions.

Amenities

The amenities provided at or in association with Linear and Linkage open spaces depend on the length and purposes for which the open spaces are managed.

Where there is a predominant recreational and/or tourism use (compared, for instance, with conservation or habitat protection), a greater level and range of amenities should be provided and should increase with the length of the reserve.

Toilets should also *generally* be provided on a more consistent basis at rural sites (e.g. Guide Falls) and in areas of conservation and heritage significance (e.g. Fernglade) due to the availability of fewer alternatives and the potential detrimental impacts of non-provision.

Indicative Sizes

The size of Linear and Linkage open spaces will be determined by their key purposes and location. Spaces used for recreational purposes can generally be narrower than those used for other purposes and may well be far longer

than those established for example, to protect streamside habitats or to provide wildlife movement corridors.

The size of areas reserved for natural habitat purposes will be determined by the assessed minimum area or length required for a sustainable ecosystem.

The indicative characteristics of Linear and Linkage open spaces used for recreational activities are:

Length: Local, minimum determined by linkage requirements (e.g: to link two residential streets might be just 60m)

Municipal: 1 kilometre (this distance has greater scope to attract users across the municipality)

Regional: 5 kilometres + (this distance has greater scope to attract users outside of the municipality within the region)

Width: Local: within an easement of greater than 5 metres unless preconditions limit this. No section, which is less than 10 metres wide should be more than 50 metres long. In urban areas, no section should be more than 150 metres long without alternate access/entry points

Management Issues

Specific management issues associated with Linear and Linkage open spaces include:

1. Ensuring key nodes are effectively linked;
2. Planning for additional links;
3. Enhancement of street links to improve safety and quality (e.g. traffic control, pavement materials, personal safety, rest and crossing points);
4. Minimising the impact of surrounding land uses; and
5. Ensuring protection of cultural and heritage values.

5. FORESHORE

Foreshore open spaces are defined as estuaries, foreshores and beaches and the land and water areas associated with them.

Example – South Burnie Beach

Purposes

The purposes of Foreshore open spaces are:

- to protect and restore foreshore resources;
- to protect foreshore, which contribute to ecosystem protection, stability and enhancement;
- to ensure compliance with State, national and international conservation agreements and covenants;
- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate the foreshore;
- to contribute to scenic and amenity qualities;
- to provide opportunities for educational and scientific study and research;
- to provide resources for a wide array of recreational activities including swimming, fishing, sailing, boating, rowing, sunbathing, picnicking/ socialising, walking, nature study, photography and sightseeing;
- to provide opportunities for a range of economic benefits to be achieved through the commercial use of the resources for tourism, boating, shipping and fishing; and
- to support other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with, waterway and lake open space (e.g. Linear and Linkage, Conservation and Heritage, Landscape and Amenity, and Utilities and Services open spaces).

Amenities

The amenities to be provided at or in association with Foreshore and Waterway open space depend on the predominant nature and purpose of each site and the associated land areas. Those, which will need specific consideration include:

- a. Car and boat parking and traffic management facilities and services;
- b. Fish cleaning and washdown areas;
- c. Use and service areas capable of supporting high activity levels;
- d. Kiosks, restaurants and other food services;
- e. Lookouts and other viewing facilities;
- f. Boat ramps, moorings and appropriate service buildings and yards; and
- g. Lifeguard and other safety facilities and services.

The array of amenities provided at sites which are small or which have importance for other purposes (e.g. conservation, landscape, heritage may be restricted to deter excessive and detrimental recreational or other uses).

Indicative Sizes

Indicative sizes cannot generally be specified for Foreshore open spaces as they will be determined by:

- a. the attributes of the resource;
- b. the size of the area required to protect the resource and to ensure ecosystem sustainability;
- c. the size of the area required to minimise impacts on other uses; and/or
- d. the area required to establish viable recreational and commercial activities together with the appropriate service areas.

In all instances, the larger and more “complete” the site, the better is its capacity to provide the values and benefits for which it has been reserved.

Management Issues

Specific management issues associated with Foreshore open spaces include:

1. Ensuring compliance with any State, national and international agreements and covenants for resource protection;
2. Control of inappropriate uses and use conflicts, zoning of uses and ensuring on-water safety;
3. Ensuring that surrounding land uses do not compromise the integrity of the reserves;
4. Establishing buffer areas to protect site values; and
5. Public liability and safety.

6. CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE

Conservation open space are defined as natural venues, which have vegetation, habitat, archaeological, building remnants, land uses or other features that warrant conservation and protection ahead of their use for other purposes.

Conservation open spaces include areas of natural vegetation and flora and fauna habitat, and sites that record Aboriginal (and European settlement) use of the land.

Examples – Round Hill, upper portion Fernglade Reserve to Stowport

Purposes

The purposes of Conservation open spaces are:

- to protect and restore open space resources, which have conservation and heritage significance;
- to ensure compliance with State, national and international conservation agreements and covenants;
- to provide resources, which contribute to water management, water catchment management, fire management and other appropriate activities;

- to provide opportunities for residents and visitors to appreciate the conservation values of the City;
- to contribute to the scenic and amenity qualities of the City;
- to provide opportunities for educational and scientific study and research;
- to provide high quality environments for a limited array of recreational activities including walking, nature study, and sightseeing; and
- to provide for other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with, Conservation and Heritage open space (e.g. Landscape and Amenity open space and Linear and Linkage open space).

Amenities

The amenities provided at Conservation open spaces will depend on the predominant nature and purpose of each site and other nearby land uses.

Indicative Sizes

Indicative sizes cannot generally be specified for Conservation and Heritage open spaces as they will be determined by:

- a. The attributes of the conservation and heritage resource
- b. The size of the area required to protect the resource, and/or
- c. The area required to ensure ecosystem sustainability.

From a conservation perspective, larger rather than smaller sites should be sought. The larger a site and the more it is connected to other open spaces (particularly those which are also of conservation and heritage significance), the better is its capacity to provide the values and benefits for which it has been reserved. From a heritage perspective, more intact sites can better provide the values and benefits for which they have been reserved.

Management Issues

Specific management issues associated with Conservation open spaces include:

1. Ensure compliance with any State, national and international agreements and covenants for resource protection. Establishing buffer areas to protect site values;
2. Ensuring that surrounding land uses do not compromise the integrity of the reserves; and
3. Providing community education and scientific research resources including information on the purpose and values of the sites and appropriate support facilities and services.

7. UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Utilities and Services open spaces are defined as reserves established to provide for a range of essential urban and rural services. They include road reserves, flood management areas, water catchments, road development, utilities easements (power, water, gas) and environmental nuisance abatement zones.

Examples – Water tank reserve Grant Street, Havenview

Purposes

The purposes of Utilities and Services open spaces are:

- to ensure that sufficient space is reserved for all essential urban and rural services;
- to ensure the safe operation of and to minimise the impact of essential services provision on other land uses;
- to ensure the protection of utilities and services infrastructure from hazards such as flood and fire;
- to optimise the economic benefits of utilities and services provision; and

- to provide for other open space categories, which are able to co-locate with, Utilities and Services open spaces (e.g. Linear and Linkage, Conservation and Heritage and Landscape and Amenity).

Amenities

Amenities are not generally provided in Utility Reserves, except where they are associated with other open space uses such as linkways.

Indicative Sizes

Indicative sizes cannot generally be specified for Utilities and Services open spaces as they will be determined by:

- a. The purpose for which the resource has been reserved;
- b. Health and safety rules and regulations associated with each use;
- c. The size and dimensions of the area required to minimise impacts on other uses; and
- d. The area required to allow viable use together with the appropriate service areas.

Management Issues

Specific management issues associated with Utilities and Services open spaces include:

1. Ensuring that a sufficient number of sites for each required use are reserved at appropriate and strategic locations throughout the towns and the wider region;
2. Ensuring effective access for safe management and operation;
3. Provision of buffer areas to minimise health, safety, noise and other impacts on surrounding land uses;
4. Controlling inappropriate access and uses;
5. Rubbish, dust, noise, pest, weed and other pollutant control; and
6. Providing access to and services for other uses as deemed appropriate.

APPENDIX D

PROCESS FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF OPEN SPACE SUITABILITY

D.1 GUIDING POLICY

Council should seek to:

promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, and ensure that spaces and facilities are accessible for people with disabilities;

locate more intensive recreational uses in sites where they can contribute to town centre vitality and viability;

avoid any significant loss of amenity to residents, neighbouring uses or biodiversity;

improve the quality of the public realm through good design of the open space landscape and facilities;

look to provide areas of open space in high density residential, commercial and industrial areas;

add to and enhance the range and quality of existing open space facilities;

carefully consider security and personal safety, especially for children and the elderly;

meet the regeneration needs of areas, using previously disturbed areas in preference to greenfield sites;

promote the compatibility of the uses made of open spaces, sport and recreational facilities and nearby land uses;

consider the scope for using any surplus land for open space, sport or recreational use, weighing this against alternative uses;

assess the impact of new facilities on social inclusion;

evidence of strong local commitment to development and maintenance of the open space;

within the potential capacity and capability of the Council to acquire, plan, manage and maintain the open space; and

consider the recreational needs of local visitors and tourists.

In planning for new open spaces the Council should generally seek opportunities to:

improve the local open space network and where possible contribute to the overall quality of the open space network for the town/district/region;

create new public open space from vacant land or under-utilised land;

maximise the potential of open space provision to provide for a range of benefits and values to the community; and

require open space provision through the development approval process for land where such land is considered to have potential to meet identified community needs for open space including sport, recreation, conservation, landscape, cultural or heritage values.

D.2 ASSESSMENT APPROACH

There is no respected formula or standards for assessing the suitable provision of open space and it should be based on the best professional judgment that can be made at the time. However that judgment can be well informed by a number of steps as listed below.

(a) Vision, Principles and Criteria Assessment

Assess the subject land in relation to the overall vision, guiding principles and criteria set out in this Plan. This should help to identify the potential contribution of the subject land to the quality of the overall open space system.

(b) Review of Relevant Policy Documents, Reports and Information

Assess the subject land in relation to the results of other relevant policies, reports, information and surveys prepared within the municipal area. This might include such sources as the planning scheme, demographic and visitor trends (e.g. projections of population growth), Council data and audits, user surveys, any remnant vegetation survey, natural resources inventory, open space plans, relevant Land Management Plans, heritage studies, catchment

plans etc. It may also involve review of Council files indicated the past history of the site and any community views expressed about the site values and use. Council should not rely on 'open space standards' as a indicator of community need as these are no longer accepted as being effective tools for assessing the needs of different community profiles.

This should help to identify what potential, if any, has been previously identified for open space and what constraints, if any, might apply to the potential use of the site.

(c) Site Visit

Undertake a site visit to assess site conditions, access, diversity of site features, use constraints, current use, potential for linkages to other open spaces or facilities, cultural values, landscape value, possible contamination etc. The preparation of a basic SWOT analysis would help identify possible strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. In particular, the site should be assessed as to the potential to contribute towards the overall recreational trails system for the town and/or municipal area. Any audit should consider both the quantitative and qualitative elements of available open space, sports and recreational facilities.

In undertaking this analysis, due consideration should be given to the site within the context of all other open spaces in the general area and any known uses or values.

(d) Stakeholder Consultation

Consult with the land owner, relevant government agencies, local community (some of this may have been done through the preparation of past open space plans) and any identified existing users. Where appropriate, undertake consultation with relevant government agencies, community groups and individuals who have indicated an interest in the area.

(e) Identify the need for any Specialist Information

Determine the need for any specialist information, which would be useful in assessing the natural or cultural values of the subject land or potential issues (e.g. land contamination, slope stability). For example, the following guidelines could be used for any flora, fauna and landscape assessments that may be required.

Flora - Flora surveys should be routinely carried out for all subdivision applications, which involve clearing of native vegetation. This should identify the plant communities and the conservation status (integrity and significance) of the subject vegetation. This could be undertaken by the Council or by engagement of botanical professionals.

Fauna - Fauna surveys should be undertaken if the development is to take place in bushland in the following circumstances where there is an indication or past evidence that the area may provide habitat for a species of high conservation significance. The need for a faunal survey should also be assessed where development:

could lead to the removal of a habitat type which adds to the ecological integrity of an adjacent reserve e.g. a hilltop next to a reserve which contains only gully and steep slope (some species within the reserve could make use of the hilltop habitat as part of their daily or seasonal requirements and could disappear from the reserve if development adjoining the reserve took place);

would take place in a plant community which was not represented in the reserve system in the area or in surrounding areas; and

around an existing bushland reserve or Council-owned bushland which would lead to creation of excessive edge effects due to poor design of the original reserve boundaries.

Landscape - Landscape values should be assessed with any proposal for open space or with each subdivision application. However more detailed consideration of the potential impact of subdivision and development upon landscape values should occur where:

the slope of the land is in excess of 1:4 and where there may be a risk of land instability;

the area contains natural vegetation, which contributes to the overall landscape quality of the area (this includes land which may be part of a continuous belt of vegetation);

soils are known to be highly erodible;

were exploited historic mining/quarry sites; and/or

in the case of a development proposal the proposed density of development and building style (including height of buildings) may be detrimental to the existing image of the general area.

Care must also be taken where cultural landscape values have been identified. Consultation with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and/or the local Aboriginal committee may be required.

(f) Preliminary Cost – Benefit Assessment

Based on the information derived from the above steps, the Council could undertake a preliminary cost – benefit analysis for the proposed open space. This would indicate the wide range of benefits (most of which are difficult to place a value on) with the potential costs for acquiring, managing and maintaining the open space over a 10 year period. The costs for developing facilities on the open space are considered to be a separate cost and would depend upon other recreation planning processes and consultation (e.g. master plan, local consultation).