



# Edward River Council Open Space Strategy

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McLean Beach





# Introduction

Edward River Council engaged MAK Planning and Design to prepare the Edward River Open Space Strategy. This study builds on other Council planning including, in particular, the Public Spaces Strategy being developed concurrently.

The Edward River Open Space Strategy is a forward-looking plan that provides direction to the provision and management of open space across the local government area. Open space, for the purposes of the Edward River Open Space Strategy, is defined as the range of public and private spaces that provide landscape and/or urban design features and are generally for rest, relaxation, recreation and sport activity, and for the preservation of the environment. Open space also provides visual amenity, often reflects cultural and heritage significance and includes the natural landscape/bushland areas and vegetation corridors.

For the Edward River Open Space Strategy, areas such as recreation and formal parkland, conservation reserves, linkages, sporting reserves (public and private), public land set aside for specific recreation or sport purposes of a specialised nature and amenity parklands are relevant.

This Strategy examines Edward River's current and future demand for open space areas; improvements to existing parks and walkways, while being cognisant of Council's vision to have a high quality open space system. It covers the township of Deniliquin as well as the six villages.

This Strategy identifies Council's open space needs for the next 20 years. With this Strategy, Council can budget for improvements and maintenance for open space.

In developing the Strategy, the key tasks have been to:

- » identify and assess the current range of facilities and open space opportunities available in the LGA
- » analyse current and estimate likely future demand for open space opportunities
- » identify any target groups within the community that are disadvantaged with open space areas and facilities and barriers for opportunity and development
- » identify priorities in relation to the type, standard and location of community open space facilities and opportunities through input from the community and Council
- » identify priorities for improvements to open space areas and their elements through input from the community and Council
- » identify opportunities for areas including linkages, multiple use, consolidation of areas
- » enable the Council to accurately identify and prioritise open space facility/ areas needs at the LGA and local community or village level
- » enable the Council to effectively plan for and prioritise the level of service across the suite of open space areas
- » enable the Council to identify existing open spaces facilities/areas that require improvement or redevelopment to meet the community needs.

In addition, a concept master plan has been developed for Scott's Park (now subject to grant funding).

Streetscapes and tourist infrastructure are not open space areas that have been considered in the Strategy.





Pottinger Park, Conargo





# Strategic Context

## Vision

This Strategy delivers on part of the Edward River Council (Draft) Community Strategic plan 2018-2030 that has as its Vision:

*We are the centre of the Southern Riverina. Home to a connected and engaged community, driven by a diverse economy. We work together to lead our community, achieve our potential and embrace our future.*

There are five outcome areas in the Community Plan and this Strategy contributes, generally, to:

- » Outcome 1: A great place to live, and
- » Outcome 3: A valued and enhanced natural environment

## Objective

This Strategy has adopted as its Objective:

*Deniliquin and the villages of Edward River Council will be attractive and dynamic places to live, work and visit because the network of public open spaces, and the valued waterways and natural red gum forests, will provide spaces for a full range of recreational, active and social opportunities for current and future generations.*

## Definition

Open space as defined in this Strategy is:

*Public lands that are broadly available for recreation, pedestrian and cycling movement, outdoor social activities and sport.*

Open space, from the major parkland along the rivers to the historic Waring Gardens; village parks and sporting fields to parks at the neighbourhood level; walking and cycling paths are an essential part of the open space system in Edward River Council area.

## Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles outlined below describe how Edward River Council will plan, design, provide and manage the provision of open space across the local government area.

### Human health benefits

Open space is recognised as providing a range of health benefits to people including physical and psychological health, feelings of happiness and social cohesion. A happy and healthy community will be supported by a quality open space network.

### Diversity

The demographic and living standard diversity, physical ability and cultural diversity will be recognised in the recreation and sporting opportunities provided across the city's parks, open spaces and landscape.

## Public safety

Safety of open space users will be a paramount consideration in park planning, design and management practices.

## Effective planning and design

The community's recreation and open space needs will be recognised in strategic planning and design processes by Council which also recognises that these change over time.

## Effective use

Use of parks and open space will be encouraged at sustainable levels. The ability to maintain parks and open spaces to cater for sustainable levels of use will be recognised.

## High quality

Recreation parks, open space and sport fields will be designed and maintained to a level, commensurate with their nature, usage and the resources available.

## Community involvement

Community involvement in open space planning and design benefits everybody. The community will be invited to be involved in the provision, planning, design and management of open space, recreation and sport activities.

## Resources

The highest priority for resource allocation for recreation and sport activities will be given to those areas of greatest need.

## Access

The accessibility of existing parks and conservation areas will, where practical, be improved over time. Accessibility will be considered an essential element of the design and construction of new parks.

## Connectivity

As far as practical, public open space areas and parks will be connected by safe corridors. Open space areas that are connected, by vegetation and pathways, offer improved recreation, transport and habitat outcomes for people, plants and animals.

## Green living

In delivering open space and recreation and sport activities, Council will be as environmentally responsible as possible. Reuse and recycling of materials and resources will be undertaken if available. Work methods will have as little impact as possible on the environment.

## Biodiversity

Our open spaces are home to many animals and plants. Our enjoyment of these spaces should have the minimum impact possible on the biodiversity that is also present.

## Indigenous history

Where Indigenous history is present or indicated within an open space area park planning and management will prioritise the protection of the Indigenous cultural material in accordance with the wishes of the Traditional Owners and legislation.

## Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage, whether man-made or natural features, will be protected in our open space areas.

## Good neighbour

Recreation and sport activities will have limited impacts on surrounding land uses while recognising that open space areas are community spaces provided for the benefit of all and are to be used for their intended purposes.





River Red Gums in the Murray Valley Regional Park









# Planning Framework

## Review of Existing Information

There are various plans and strategies that have been developed in recent years that are relevant to the Edward River Open Space Strategy.

The relevant sections of these documents are summarised below and where their recommendations remain relevant, in light of the findings of the research undertaken for the Edward River Open Space Strategy, their recommendations will be carried forward.

### **Sports Decentralisation Program: Capacity and Capability Assessment**

This report was prepared in 2016 and had as its focus examining the event potential of various facilities. It did this by reviewing the Club's human and facility strengths.

All significant facilities across Edward River were evaluated and an overall assessment was provided for "event potential". However, there are no recommendations in the report—it is just a point-in-time review of the existing state of clubs and facilities.

### **Love Game**

"Love Game" was developed from an idea that came out of the Big Sky Ideas 'Think Big Rural Women' Program in September 2017. Participants were looking for innovative and entrepreneurial ways to build belonging and connection in the Deniliquin/Edward River region.

The original idea from the program was "to create a community café that provides a space for the local community to connect and build culture through local and regional food". Subsequent to the initial planning the North Deniliquin Tennis Club was approached as a potential venue for a trial of the project<sup>1</sup>.

Love Game was to be a social enterprise that supports the redevelopment and ongoing sustainability of the North Deniliquin Tennis Club.

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<sup>1</sup> Since the initial approaches to the North Deniliquin Tennis Club potential asbestos has been discovered in the tennis club building which may make the project non-viable in that space.

## Conargo Villages Master Plans

The former Conargo Shire Council prepared village master plans for each of the shire's villages—Blighty, Booroorban, Conargo, Mayrung, Pretty Pine and Wanganella.

Each of the master plan reports was prepared by Leisl Malan Landscape Architects in 2014 (except Conargo). Each plan involved deep discussions with the local community and should be considered as community-driven, though with input from design professionals.

Many of the six master plan's actions have been implemented. The key open space recommendations that are still considered relevant and have not been actioned are noted below.

### Blighty Village

The remaining open space recommendations for Blighty only concern the recreation reserve as the small open space area near the hotel has been implemented. At the Blighty Recreation Reserve the following recommendations are still to be implemented:

- » undertake detailed design for walking paths, roads and car parking across the whole site, including a walking path and signage at the old school site. Vehicles dominate the site causing damage and have the potential to hit a person
- » in the detailed design consider tree planting in the large (main) hard stand car park
- » upgrade the front fence and entrance signage to the reserve
- » look to construct a spectator mound with tree planting for wind protection
- » undertake boulevard planting on the exit road to Blighty Hall Road.

### Booroorban Village

In Booroorban the open space recommendations are for the two public open space areas—the Booroorban Hall site and the sports ground (cricket ground).

A number of recommendations for the hall area have been implemented such as lining and air-conditioning of the hall. Other recommendations that are still outstanding include:

- » a history walk around the site with interpretative signage
- » developing a multi-use court using a base that already exists
- » removing the old school and installing a shelter that references the school and its history
- » redesign the entrance to the hall to make it more attractive and inviting
- » replace the shade cloth over the playground with a hard cover for all weather use.

Pottinger Park, Conargo



The plan noted that consideration should be given to re-establishing the recreation ground so that it could be used for a range of sporting uses.

## Conargo Village

The Conargo Village Masterplan pre-dates the other village plans.

Like many of the others it has largely been implemented. The development and opening of Pottinger Park in 2017 was one of the last elements to be put in place.

From an open space perspective, the remaining action is the development of a path or trail from Pottinger Park to Billabong Creek adjacent to the road. As the distance is in the order of 950 metres the path would only be formal from Pottinger Park until the last building in the Village, approximately 150 metres. Then it would utilise the road verge to the bridge over Billabong Creek.

## Mayrung Village

One of the key thoughts in the Mayrung Masterplan Report was a new one-way road system for accessing the hall, church and school<sup>2</sup>. As a note the community consultation held in Mayrung advised that their thinking on the location of this road has now changed so this aspect of the master plan report needs revisiting.

Other matters in the plan that are still relevant are:

- » the reuse of the Memorial Gates (that are in storage) for a new war memorial
- » adding a mosaic wall to the tennis clubhouse
- » adding extra lines or posts to the tennis courts for extra play options
- » formalising car parking near the hall and adding an area with seats
- » consider leasing the sports field out for grazing with any funds raised used for community facilities.

## Pretty Pine Village

In Pretty Pine the open space recommendations are for the Recreation Reserve as it is the

only open space area in the village. Relevant recommendations that are still to be implemented are:

- » if funds become available consider an irrigation system for the oval
- » upgrade the tennis courts to hard surface
- » construct a nature play area to broaden the appeal of the existing playground
- » formalise overnight camping in the reserve including policy and guidelines.

## Wanganella Village

Wanganella has more open space than the other villages in number and area. The recommendations below are shown by open space area.

### *Camping Reserve*

- » develop a walking path and interpretative materials for the historic cemetery
- » consolidate tracks in the reserve to protect the environment
- » develop a walk from the village to the weir
- » add signs advising where toilets can be found in the village (perhaps in the long-term toilets are required at the reserve but there are engineering issues in providing them)
- » seating and surface improvements to weir area.

### *P K Edmund Park (Peppin Ram)*

- » upgrade the park's improvements (seats, bins etc.)
- » water-proof the dams only after establishing sufficient supply to keep them filled (or alternatively remove them).

### *Bernard Keys Park*

- » replace the fence with bollards
- » improve the maintenance of the park so that it appears as a public space.

### *Other*

- » a concrete slab area in the village for skateboard riding.

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<sup>2</sup> The public open space is the land that the hall, tennis club, cricket ground and fire shed occupy. The church and the school are on private land however the three areas operate as one and there is a high level of cooperation across the tenant groups

# Open Space Trends

While the primary focus of the Edward River Open Space Strategy is to assess the current land supply, gaps in provision and future land needs for public parks; an understanding of local, state, national and international trends relating to park design and play opportunities can assist in the future design and embellishment of the open space to provide an open space network that operates more effectively.

Key trends are highlighted in this section. The trends review indicates that the success of a park is rarely attributed to just the size, location, and level of embellishments. Its connectedness with community infrastructure and the surrounding community has been proven to be more effective indicators. This includes such elements as understanding the needs and desires of the local community (demographic influences), how parks are designed to maximise use, offering play experiences (for all age cohorts, including adults) as opposed to playgrounds, and the role that formal and informal activities have in the community perception and use of parks.

- » **Ageing Population:** The average age of the population is increasing, Open spaces are responding by having more infrastructure for older people such as walking paths, fitness equipment and rest areas. However, there is still a significant population of children so the need for playgrounds and other child-focussed infrastructure is not diminished.
- » **Obesity and Health:** Physical inactivity is second to tobacco as a risk factor for disease and premature deaths in Australia. Participation in physical activity can help address this health issue. Walking paths and park connectedness has become more important as attractive and safe places to walk encourages people to undertake exercise.
- » **Volunteers:** People volunteering their time have been the backbone of sporting clubs in Australia. For various reasons the rate of volunteering is declining. There will be changes to the way that sport is organised if this trend continues. Most likely there will be some amalgamations of sporting clubs and/or people being paid, perhaps only a small amount, to do some of the tasks now carried out by volunteers.

- » **Multicultural Communities:** Where there are higher concentrations of multicultural communities, park planners are responding through appropriate designs. Many multicultural communities like to gather in large groups in parks. To accommodate them larger shelters are required as well as grassed areas for playing games. The types of sport that a local multicultural community plays may be different from that which has traditionally been played so may require a different type of level of provision.

- » **Park Design:** The quality of the design of an open space area influences how people use the space, how safe they feel, and what level of enjoyment and well-being will be gained from the experience. The use of design principles provides guidance towards creating the 'right' park setting that is essential to the community's use of open space for physical activity purposes. These principles include:

- be meaningful to place and community
- be multi-functional and adaptable
- provide diversity
- encourage social interaction
- promote health and well-being
- provide equality and accessibility
- embody environmental sustainability

The design of a park is critically important in ensuring that it is successful. The design of open space should include:

- attractive and safe open spaces with good lighting, seating, shade, shelters, and areas for play
- well lit, level, and shaded footpaths that provide linkages to other open space and facilities
- walking and cycle pathways, with links to community and commercial areas, and public transport
- availability of a range of safe, quality indoor and outdoor facilities
- infrastructure that supports participation by all people regardless of their ability or age.

- » **Play Experience versus a Playground:** A play experience is, or should be, vibrant and exciting, whereas a playground is just part of the infrastructure that is provided. A play experience does not innately require the installation of structured play equipment. Interesting and interactive places to play and explore may be created by designing magical and evocative landscapes. This may include sculpting the earth or utilising the natural contours, planting (for example, vegetated tunnels, mazes or forests) and/or utilising various textures and materials such as creative paving patterns (stepping stones, steps, edgings for balancing). A play space may incorporate interesting views or vistas, showcase art or innovation, sculptural park furniture, landscape structures or buildings. Play experiences may incorporate elements such as:
  - storytelling/sculpture trees
  - labyrinth/mazes/tunnels of plants
  - hidey holes
  - mist water play or water jets
  - meandering paths
  - meeting places
  - musical play

The common characteristic in all of these elements is that the infrastructure suggests (but never dictates) how it is to be used. Moreover, each element can be used in many ways—common sense says that a toddler will use a mist water play area quite differently to a twelve-year-old child.

Some examples images of successful play experience can be found in Figure 1.
- » **Access and Mobility:** Open spaces and parks that are easy to access by all members of the community are well-used. Difficult road crossings, busy traffic, lack of public transport and walking and cycle paths and conflict with other uses may deter potential users. Signage to improve accessibility, orientation and connectivity to places of special interest, amenities and services can also provide users with a sense of direction. Providing a continuous, accessible path of travel through a play space makes the area more accessible to a larger variety of people. It enables people in wheelchairs, parents with prams, and the elderly with mobility assistance equipment to move freely around the park and not restrict their movement.
- » **Standards:** In order to minimise public risk and liability issues Council should ensure that all public park infrastructure complies with the relevant Australian Standards.
- » **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED):** is a method of crime prevention which holds as its basic belief that the physical environment can be changed or managed to produce a behavioural effect. This, in turn, will reduce the incidence of crime and the fear of crime. CPTED differs from other methods that employ harsh physical countermeasures, as its techniques use environmental factors to affect the perceptions of all users of a given space. CPTED can reduce the incidence of crime and the fear of crime through:
  - territoriality—fostering stakeholder interaction, vigilance, and control over their environment
  - surveillance—maximising the ability to spot suspicious persons and activities
  - activity support—encouraging the intended use of public spaces by members of the public
  - creating hierarchy of spaces—identifying ownership by delineating private space from public spaces through real or symbolic boundaries
  - access control/target hardening—using physical barriers, security devices and tamper-resistant materials to restrict entrance to a space
  - environment—a design or location decision that takes into account the surrounding environment and minimises the use of space by conflicting groups
  - image/maintenance—ensuring that a building or area is clean, well-maintained and graffiti free.
- » **Activation:** No longer are local governments taking a 'build it and they will come' approach to parks. Various studies have shown the level of embellishments or the perception of a park as being 'safe' does not necessarily facilitate increased use of the park or open space area. Parks with organised activities, run either by Council or a private organisation, attract a greater number of users. Increasingly, Councils are recognising that they need to provide activities in public open spaces to encourage use.



Figure 1: Images of various successful play structures



» **Sports Parks:** Councils face an increasing trend to develop and re-develop sporting parks to a higher level in order to increase carrying capacity. Upgrades, such as field lighting and irrigation, allow training and competition times to be extended and increases the ability of fields to cope with the resulting wear and tear. Turf management and space management<sup>3</sup> can also significantly increase a field's carrying capacity.

» **Environmental and Land Use Buffers/Corridors:** Open space is no longer just an area that provides space to recreate and play sport. As a community's population increases, open space is being used to prevent the encroachment of residential or commercial development on incompatible land uses and/or areas of environmental significance.

<sup>3</sup> The active management of training and play to re-distribute the load e.g. conduct goal-shooting practice in a goal at the side of the ground rather than the goals on the field.



## Drivers for Provision of Open Space

Table 1 details the basic drivers behind the need for different types of open space and the basic factors underlying provision of open space of that type.

Understanding the different drivers and underlying factors aids in understanding differences in the nature of performance criteria/standards of service for each open space function. For example, desired standards of service for recreation and sport parks will be related to the number of people, where they live and work, how they use the land and the type of experience they might expect.

In contrast, criteria for provision of conservation areas will depend on the species of flora and/or fauna present, the significance in sustaining ecosystems and other such criteria.

When classifying the recreation and sporting parkland, we have ensured that the land:

- » is suitable and safe for use by people (servicing the recreational, social, cultural, and sporting needs of residents)
- » has free and unrestricted access (there may be some restriction on access for regular or special events, but people are able to access the space freely at other times)
- » is embellished or is intended to be embellished, to encourage and facilitate recreational or sporting access.

## Population

Deniliquin's population is slightly lower in 2017 than it was at the peak of the last boom.

It is estimated that the current population is 8,000 people and that it will grow to approximately 9,500 in 20 years (2037).

The population in the villages is small and, from an open space perspective, too small to plan against. The villages are not expected to show any significant population growth in the life of this report.

## Classification

An open space framework has been used to classify open space across the local government area. The classification framework reflects the history and current use of public open space and is inclusive of a range of recreation and sporting activities and pursuits as well as conservation-focussed lands.

The differing open space types across the local government area possess differing values, functions and settings. The sustainability of each type of open space is commensurate with the nature and level of the usage impacts on their values. Impacts arise from compatible and incompatible uses of respective open space. The resources available for maintenance and improvements can be key to sustaining the values over time.

The open space classification system is detailed in Table 2. It is relatively simple but will give sufficient guidance on how to plan, develop and maintain the open space system across the local government area.

For the villages only one open space classification has been used—Village Open Space. The villages have very low populations and are spread around the district. There is no value in a detailed open

Table 1: Drivers for the provision of open space types

| Open Space Function        | Drivers  | Factors underlying provision  |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Recreation and sport parks | Need to provide opportunities for physical activity, health and well-being of people   | Developing land and increasing populations  |
| Recreation corridors       | Need to connect residential areas, community destinations and open space areas to facilitate opportunities for physical activity, health and well-being of people as well as alternative commuter routes | Connection, access and mobility within and between residential areas, community destinations, open space and places of employment |
| Ecological areas           | Need to conserve and protect flora, fauna, biodiversity and ecological functions   | Dependent on the extent and significance of the element being protected   |
| Amenity reserves           | Need to protect scenic amenity, cultural and natural features, and liveability of areas  | Dependent on the nature and extent of the element being protected   |

Table 2: Classification Framework

| Classification Type | Specific Sub-Types or Hierarchy | Description/ Definition  |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Amenity             | n/a                             | Green spaces that are provided, generally, to beautify an area. They are typically seen but not frequently used. Typically, there is little or no embellishment within the space.  |
| Community Facility  | n/a                             | Community facilities have specialised building and land footprint requirements to meet community needs. Community facilities include libraries, halls and civic centres.<br><br>As community facilities fall outside the definition of open space for this strategy they have only been recorded where they sit on open space zoned land and occupy a significant portion of the site.   |
| Conservation        | n/a                             | Generally, this is land where the primary management intent is the protection of animals and plants. These areas are typically in the control of NPWS or similar bodies.   |
| Recreation          | Local                           | Smaller sized parks providing a limited range of recreational opportunities for local residents. These parks contain infrastructure for recreational use, but generally, cater for short visits only.  |
|                     | District                        | Mid-sized parks providing a range of facilities and activity spaces for recreation. These parks have facilities to cater for large groups and are appealing to a range of users. They can service a large portion or the whole of the town. They are usually well-known destinations.  |
|                     | Regional                        | A park of very high quality that services the recreation needs for the entire local government area.   |
|                     | Linkage                         | A linear open space area that serves to allow off-road walk/cycling connections to other open space areas or points of interest.   |
| Sports Parks        | Sports                          | Parks that primarily cater for a variety of formal sporting activities through provision of a range of training and competition infrastructure. These parks include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» facilities specifically for undertaking competitive, organised activities</li> <li>» ancillary facilities for clubs or organisations to support sporting activities (such as canteens, clubhouses, storage facilities)</li> <li>» free, unrestricted access to the public at times when formal sport is not being undertaken.</li> </ul> Generally, these parks are publicly owned but can, on occasions, be privately owned land. |
|                     | Specialised Sport               | Parks provided for sporting activities where the nature of the activity precludes free, unrestricted access to members of the public.<br><br>Specialised sports include motocross/motorcycling, equestrian, golf, shooting, car racing, horse racing, model aeroplanes, and field archery/ bow hunting etc.<br><br>It is also likely that some specialised sport parks in the Region are also privately owned.   |
| Unallocated         | n/a                             | This includes land for which a specific open space classification has yet to be determined. This classification also includes undeveloped land that may be used for open space in the future.  |
| Village             | n/a                             | All open space in the villages has been classified as Village Open Space. Open space in this category often performs many of the functions detailed above such as sport, recreation and community facility land.   |

space system for the villages. From a maintenance perspective it would not make sense to have different open space types tied to different maintenance regimes. The largest space (usually the recreation reserve) or the most important space needs to drive the maintenance regime. All other spaces are maintained at the same time to avoid a schedule that would require multiple trips to each village because of differing maintenance schedules for small open space areas.

## Core Service Levels

Core Service Level (CSL) is the level of open space that Council strives to provide as a minimum to all residents across the local government area. Ultimately, the CSL guides the planning for open space, however, it should not be the only consideration made to the provision of sport and recreational opportunities. CSL can be categorised under four broad headings:

- » access to open space
- » quantity of land for open space
- » land characteristics for new open space
- » level of embellishment—desired changes and development required for functional open space.

The access and quantity standards are the two primary areas used to assess and plan for open space, especially from a land use planning perspective. Land characteristics and the level of embellishment provide additional information that should be used as a guide in developing open space. Recognising that it is equally important to provide a diverse range of open space opportunities must also be considered in this process. As such, Council can also consider the demographic characteristics of the area (current and projected), surrounding open space assets and nearby land uses.

Unfortunately, it is not always possible to apply these standards for each different classification of open space as many of them are opportunistic, dependant on site specific (e.g. topographical or geographical) attributes and/or are intrinsically linked to social or environmental descriptors. As such, it is commonplace that CSL are only set for those open spaces that are considered core open space (recreation parks and sport fields).

## Quantity Standard

The quantity standard identifies the recommended minimum standards for the provision of land for open space. The quantity standard suggested for Edward River Council area LGA is described in Table 3. It is a quite standard level of supply with 2.0 hectares per 1,000 people for sport open space and the same again for recreation open space.

It is important to note that there are no standards for the provision of recreation corridors, environmental and specialised sports parks. Demand for land for these purposes should be based on the presence of significant biodiversity, natural or heritage values, or, alternatively, based on social demand (specialised sport).

Table 3 : Rate of provision (ha/1,000 residents)

| Park Type       | Local | District | Regional |
|-----------------|-------|----------|----------|
| Recreation Park | 0.7   | 0.9      | 0.4      |
| Sports Park     | NA    | 2.0      |          |

## Accessibility Standard

The accessibility standard is used to guide appropriate spatial distribution of open space. The recommended spacing and distribution of parks will vary depending on the park hierarchy, the population to be serviced and the predominant land use as detailed in the upcoming pages. Accessibility standards are not able to be applied to all park typologies due to the purpose of the different types.

Whilst spatial distribution data has been provided, it is only a guide. In lay terms, it is hoped that all residents within urban areas are within easy walking distance to a recreation park, regardless of its hierarchy (local, district or regional). Best practice guidelines suggest no more than a five-minute walk is preferred, this generally transcribes to 400m radius of a park. Natural and man-made constraints such as rivers, major highways and so on must also be considered.

The accessibility standard for sports parks is different to that of recreation parks. Given trends in sport planning, it is believed it is not relevant to provide accessibility standards to these types of parks for a town the size of Deniliquin—it is not that big that people cannot easily make their way to a sports complex. This thinking is also supported by a number of arguments such as it is widely accepted by the sporting industry that people will drive to participate in the desired activity and that people's desire to participate is not influenced by what facilities are in close proximity to where they live. As long as a facility is available within reasonable driving distance, people will travel to play their

chosen sport. Therefore, having a diversity of choice of activity options (again within reason and based on the feasibility of success of that sport) is often more important.

The recommended Accessibility Standard for the distribution of recreation parks is defined in Table 4.

Table 4: Accessibility Standard (kilometres)

| Park Type             | Local   | District | Regional |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Recreation Open Space | 0.4 kms | 2.0 kms  | LGA      |

## Land Characteristics Standard

Land Characteristic Standards (Table 5) are a guide when acquiring new open space land. These standards are used as a base in determining the lowest quality land characteristics per classification type. A range of land types are required to provide diversity within the open space network. These recommended minimum levels of provision will ensure a realistic and achievable quality urban open space network that is generous in accordance with the proposed vision.

Table 5: Suggested Land Characteristic Standards

| Characteristic                            | Recreation Open Space  |   |          | Sport Open Space   |  |
|---|--|---|----------|--|--|
|   | Local  | District  | Regional | District   | Regional   |
| Minimum usable size of open space (ha)    | 0.5  | 2   | 6        | 3  | 10   |
| Average (desired) size of open space (ha) | 1  | 4   | 13       | 6  | 18   |
| Shape of land                             | The preferred shape for a park is square to rectangular with the sides no greater than 2:1 |   |          | To maximise the area available for playing fields, a square or rectangle shape is considered most efficient                                      |  |
| Minimum desired flood immunity            | Preferably the park would be above 1:20-year flood levels                                  | Preferably the park would be above 1:50-year flood levels with all key infrastructure located on land above 1:100-year flood levels |          | Preferably the fields and courts would be above 1:50-year flood levels with all key infrastructure located on land above 1:100 year flood levels |  |
| Maximum desired grade                     | The park should have slopes of less than 10% for most of the park                          | At least 60% of the park should have slopes under 7%  |          | Minimum of 1:80 for all playing surfaces   | Laser levelling to a 1:100 gradient of playing surface |
| Road frontage and visibility              | 50% road frontage where possible   |   |          | Approximately 25-50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage but this can vary given other factors                                    |  |

# Embellishment and Maintenance Standards

Embellishment standards describe the typical levels of embellishment expected for recreation and sport infrastructure. Documenting the typical level of embellishment at different levels of the hierarchy and in different settings assists local governments by providing:

- » descriptions that help stakeholders understand the differences in the levels of a hierarchy
- » a structure to estimate typical capital costs of development (for infrastructure charging and/or budgeting)
- » a basic set of parameters guiding appropriate versus inappropriate embellishment, ensuring functionality, diversity and values are not eroded.

Management/maintenance standards need to be developed that are related to the planning framework, classification and hierarchy categories. These standards will provide a structure for allocating resources in the areas where they best service community needs. For example, areas classified as Amenity Parks might receive a more frequent schedule of mowing than local recreation parks.





Waring Gardens, Deniliquin





# Consultation

## Edward River Council

Council officers that are involved in the provision of open space provided input to the study and the broad themes emerging from the discussions are presented below.

### Lagoons

It has long been planned that the Lagoons be better linked for walking. Water quality is a problem in some lagoons in part caused by too many ducks. "Duck Weed" outbreaks occur from time to time which have to be managed. The number of ducks on the Lagoons needs to be managed to control these outbreaks.

### Indoor Sports Centre and Deniliquin Swim Centre

There is funding currently available for an extra court at the indoor sports centre. Planning is underway for this addition.

The main 50-metre pool at the Deniliquin Swim Centre is currently being upgraded with a vinyl liner that should give the complex a further 10-20-year life.

### Parks (various)

- » **Perrin Park:** needs to have the watercourse piped before the public could be allowed in there. It is the missing link in the Lagoon Walk.
- » **Vacant sites:** many are being used for unauthorised access. In the case of Johnstone Park<sup>1</sup> the neighbours maintain it with Council undertaking weed spraying and tree trimming. Some residents adjacent to these sites are not respecting the spaces as publicly accessible open space and are using them for private activity, including rear yard access, storage and gardening.
- » **Memorial Park:** a master plan and a facility management plan (or possibly a business plan) is required. The park which is home to a number of major sports and the annual show is not run efficiently. There is too much facility duplication and groups are not sharing resources as well as they should. The Park also needs signs clearly advising that camping is not allowed.
- » **Edward River Oval:** no longer used by cricket or any other sport. There is no identified sporting need for the Oval. However, it is a good location for community events and needs to be kept for that purpose.
- » **Scott's Park:** redevelopment should include natural play items.
- » **Eli Brown Park:** being developed with tourist infrastructure was well-supported in the consultation.

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<sup>1</sup> Johnstone Park is accessed by a small driveway (perhaps three metres wide) but is otherwise totally enclosed by residents' back fences.





Duck Weed choking the Lagoon



## Other Matters

- » **Village Reserves:** All villages have a reserve and they are generally well-developed and important to each town. At Blighty the netball/tennis courts have recently been redeveloped and new clubrooms are planned in 2017/18. Many items in the Village master plans have been completed and the outstanding items need to be reviewed for continued relevance.
- » **Land Claim:** there are some issues of land claim on some of the reserves e.g. Twin Rivers Reserve has a Native Title Claim over it.
- » **Levee Bank:** Could be used to continue the town walks out to the Big 4 Caravan Park on the Edward River. Currently people in West Deniliquin use the roads for walking.
- » **Fees and Charges:** following the amalgamation there is a need to review the fees and charges for the different user groups recognising the resources and circumstances of the various groups and Council's maintenance resources.
- » **Dog Off-Leash Area:** there is no dog off-leash area in Deniliquin. The *Companion Animals Act 1998* requires that there is at least one in the local government area. Edward River Oval was suggested as a good venue and other venues could be investigated.
- » **Rail Corridor:** is to be vacated for three blocks and there may be opportunities for open space in this corridor with two of the blocks yet to be committed. The railway line will be removed and there is potential for a linear link where the line was located. This trail could link residents into the Living Lagoon Walk.
- » **Maintenance Costs:** any new capital item has maintenance requirements and the whole-of-life costs need to be considered before any improvements are funded.
- » **Regulatory:** there is a lack of respect for open space by some adjacent landholders. The open space is being used for vehicle access to back yards, growing fruit and vegetables, storage and caravan parking.
- » **River Access:** in North Deniliquin access to the River can be obtained from the unformed Lilly Street. There is an attractive sandy beach against the River. For those that are not aware of this legal access point it is not obvious that they can walk down to the River. This access point needs signage and a pathway to increase usage.
- » **Fire Station:** the fire station is located in George Street between Napier Street and Edwardes Street, opposite the Visitor Information Central and parklands. There is a need to keep the street open at all times in case of an emergency. As such, it cannot be temporarily closed at any time for events. If the fire station was to relocate to be adjacent to the ambulance station in Dick Street, then there could be events in this space including a temporary road closure.
- » **North Deniliquin Tennis Club:** has supporters that are actively attempting to have the tennis courts reinstated. The Club is fundraising and is affiliating with Tennis NSW. The clubhouse was the lecture hall at the airfield during WW2 and it may be appropriate to recognise its historic significance. There are some nebulous ideas around developing the space at the site.
- » **North Deniliquin Tourist Bay:** with a dump point it is a popular sport for tourists. More information could be added for tourists.
- » **Deniliquin Children's Centre:** will be seeking an expansion of their lease area into Dr A. P. Gorman Park. The increase in area is a license requirement to offer more childcare places.

# Community Engagement

To gain broad input to this Discussion Paper from the community a number of channels have been used. These include:

- » Community survey and a survey sent to all sporting organisations
- » Deniliquin town meetings (twice)
- » Village meetings
- » Meetings with key people and groups known to have information or issues relevant to the project
- » Revolving displays and comment boards in a project office in Napier Street.

Themes that have arisen in the community consultation are, in no particular order:

- » Waring Gardens is and should remain the prime park in Deniliquin. However, it is looking a little tired and some new landscaping, play equipment and night lighting would improve its appeal.
- » The streetscape in front of RAMS Oval is unattractive and as it is an entry point to Deniliquin it is not a good first impression of the town.
- » There is no dog off-leash space in Deniliquin.
- » Enhance the walking experience in Deniliquin by connecting the Beach to Beach Walk with the Lagoons and using the levee bank to go further west
- » There was broad support for a simple suspension bridge to link Island Sanctuary/ Memorial Park to the Murray Valley Regional Park (northern section). This would link the River Walk into North Deniliquin, the existing trails in the forest and allow for loop walks back across the Cobb Highway bridge.
- » There was support for the ideas suggested for the bmx track section of Scott's Park with agreement that a pump track as the main attraction in the park, with other youth elements (e.g. skills course and dirt jumps) hanging off it.
- » There are thoughts in the community of creating a small park at the airport.
- » There is too much illegal camping at Memorial Park. Electricity boxes should be locked, and signage put in place advising that camping is not permitted.
- » There is a push by some members of the community to reopen the North Deniliquin Tennis Club. A working bee was held in late 2017 to clear the courts. Part of the drive for the reinstatement of the courts is to balance the (perceived) lack of facilities on the north side of the River.

The following are points made on posters in the Project HQ about general open space matters:

- » Gym equipment along the River is great—more social infrastructure like that! Another commented that they would like rubber softfall rather than bark chips underfoot.
- » Rationalise sporting facilities—only one football club is required
- » Refresh Waring Gardens and remove the peacock enclosure
- » Activate Waring Gardens with festivals, particularly at night
- » A safe and secure dog off-leash area (numerous commenters)
- » Water play park for children and tourists. Also, an interactive fountain was suggested
- » At least one all-abilities playground
- » Upgrade Sparrow Park (Robertson Crescent) as the play equipment is old
- » Pakenham Street Pump Station—develop it as a park
- » Link Murray Valley Regional Park to Four Post with bike tracks to create a full day ride
- » Clearer signage to indicate what activities are/are not allowed in natural areas including Murray Valley Regional Park.
- » Improve and extend the lagoon system
- » The North Deniliquin tennis courts would be good for the community (several comments to this effect). There are also comments to the effect that they are “ugly”, should be removed and the land added to the park.
- » Nesbit's Bequest needs to be identified as public land and access made available
- » There are too many parks with some rarely used. Pick a few and develop them
- » Open air, outdoor cinema
- » In general, more rubbish bins in the lagoon system
- » Toilets and a drink station at Willoughbys Beach Campground (Murray Valley Regional Park). Note: Toilets are planned but NPWS does not provide potable water in its reserves
- » Tidy up Mclean Beach and add a playground
- » Close Edwardes Street between Harrison and Civic Place and extend park and lagoon across the road. Open the southern end of Civic Place through to End Street
- » Add a playground to the Crossing Cafe Park. Could be a nature play space
- » Treat catheads (burs) in small parks
- » Tidy up the cemetery—“it looks terrible”
- » Remove willows on river and in parks (there was

also some disagreement with this)

- » Integrate the town better with the River (our greatest open space)—do not let the levee bank be a line of demarcation
- » More cycling paths around Deniliquin
- » Clearer access signage, particularly access points to the River.

The following are points made on posters in Project HQ about Scott's Park and BMX Park matters:

- » Keep the Rocket! Many people made this comment or similar comments
- » Rename the park as Rocket Park or keep the name as it is as Mr Scott was the fund-raiser for the park. Divergent views were apparent on this issue
- » A number of comments supported a bitumen pump-track with dirt jumps. Other ideas were for zip-lines and a climbing or bouldering wall
- » More rubbish bins needed and add a water bubbler at skate park. Add some shade and seating so that parents can attend
- » The existing playground equipment can be very hot in summer and often in winter there are puddles below the equipment.
- » Add a mural to the water tower. Another comment was that the design should either be rural or Indigenous
- » Involve the high school students in the design and management of the BMX track area
- » In the redesign of Scott's Park add rocks and a rock climbing wall. Add a "giant" sand pit
- » Add lights to the BMX track
- » Any art mural should be street art style
- » Add a covered slide from the top of the rocket, monkey bars, fireman's pole, rock wall, swings and a maze
- » Add bike racks.



## Village Meetings

### Booroorban

In general, the community is appreciative of the improvements made to the hall in recent years and are focussed on maintaining and making good use of the hall. There are still smaller improvements that the community considers would improve the safety and comfort of users. Principal among these is to define an area at the front of the hall through bollards to keep parked cars back from the entrance. The area would be landscaped and lit (fairy lights) to give the hall a party atmosphere. The front doors would also be changed as the current doors make the hall look like a shed rather than an events venue. This was the meeting's highest priority for the village.

The previous Village Master Plan had suggested that the gym, which is a relocatable building, be sold off to finance improvements to the main hall, including air-conditioning. As these have been completed there is no desire to sell this off as it is a valued building—being used as the gym, small meetings and food service area.

The old school house beside the hall is in very bad

repair and there is no obvious or likely need for it. It could be removed or demolished along with other residual school facilities. The buildings are located on Crown Land.

The sports field only gets used about once per year for a social cricket game. There are no usable facilities apart from the cricket pitch with the toilets and shelter having fallen down (or in the process). Anyone needing the toilet has to drive back to the hotel. Eventually the village would like minimal toilet facilities at the sportsground.

The Village Master Plan also suggested several walking paths, to the hall and the old cemetery via the sportsground. These need to be reconsidered. The path to the hall would run alongside the road. However, as there is minimal traffic on the road, it would be more cost-effective to utilise the road.

As there is very little remnant headstones or other artefacts at the cemetery the cost and maintenance of a path needs to be carefully considered given its likely level of use.

Front doors of the Booroorban Hall





## Blighty

Community life in Blighty centres around the hall and the hotel. At the time of consultation, the future of the hotel was under a cloud and so the role of the hall in the community may become even more important.

There is only one key open space area in Blighty—the Blighty Recreation Reserve—on which the hall and sporting facilities are located (along with some community facilities). There is a small open space area near the hotel that is mainly a travellers' rest stop and amenity.

There are two football ovals. Football is very strong, and the games attract good crowds during winter. The netball/tennis courts have recently been refurbished and a clubhouse renewal is taking place. There are two playgrounds catering to a range of ages. There is also some bushland retained on site that offers nature play experiences.

The hall is used for a range of social functions and supports the sporting activities, playgroup and school activities.

There was limited input to the consultation event for this project in Blighty. It was mentioned that a path around the reserve could be good as a fitness trail along with outdoor fitness equipment. There is a regular fitness class held within the hall and the outdoor facilities could be an adjunct to those or for people that could not make the classes.

The Blighty Village Masterplan mentions the development of a memorial at the old school site which is on the Reserve. The memorial would include paths,

seating and interpretive signage. The master plan also talks of a path along the Highway heading west back to the Village and another heading east then north to the current school site. The value of this path needs to be considered given the considerable capital and maintenance costs that would be involved.

## Conargo

The focus on open space at the Conargo meeting was on the Conargo Swimming Reserve.

The recreation reserve in which the hall and visitors' toilets and display, playground, tennis courts (not-in-service) and cricket field sits is quite satisfactory except for the desire for a swing in the playground.

Pottinger Park is a new rest area in the middle of the village near the shop, the only commercial establishment in Conargo.

Caravanners are well catered for with two parks where they can stop, but not camp—Bill's Park and the Conargo Recreation Reserve.

The Conargo Swimming Reserve (see Figure 2) is on the bend in the billabong where it widens out substantially. There is a basic park at this point. As it does get flooded improvements are few. Council does bring in the sand for the beach. There are a few log seats and an ageing shelter.

The community would like to make this safe swimming area more family-friendly through better seating, more shade and better access.

Figure 2: Conargo Swimming Reserve





## Mayrung

Open space in Mayrung is adjacent to and surrounding the hall. The school, a church and the rural fire brigade are also located at this location and all entities cooperate to share the area as a single piece of open space despite the different ownerships.

The school and the fire brigade are the main users of the space. The school uses the two courts beside the hall for tennis and netball.

The priorities for Mayrung are:

- » Upgrade the Memorial Gates (see Figure 3)
- » Town entrance statements

The original memorial gates are in storage. Those shown in Figure 3 are temporary awaiting the upgrade of the area with paving and a flagpole. The gate posts are the originals, and both have plaques on them.

Mayrung is the only village without town entrance

signage. When other villages received their entrance signage Mayrung missed out, reportedly because the road reserve is too narrow. There is no sign at all to indicate the village of Mayrung. The meeting wanted Council to consider vertical entrance signage at either side of the village in keeping with the artistic style of other villages.

Aspects of the Mayrung Village Masterplan are no longer supported. In particular the road around the hall is not supported as it will interfere with the septic evaporation zone. The road should remain where it is between the hall and the playground but loop around the church so that no reversing is required to pick up children and the bus can collect children inside the boundary of the site rather than on the side of the road.

A further suggestion was to consider an art mural on the tennis club shed.

The village is generally happy with the hall though there are a few maintenance items to attend to.

*Figure 3: Existing Memorial Gates at Mayrung Hall—note the gates are only temporary, originals are in storage*





## Pretty Pine

The Pretty Pine Recreation Reserve is the major open space of the Pretty Pine Village.

The Reserve is located out of the village and off the main road, so it has no street frontage. However, it is the heart of the village with most significant community events being held at the Reserve<sup>2</sup>.

The main sporting activities are horse-related (e.g. pony club, cutting and polocrosse), tennis, pistol shooting and an occasional social cricket game. There is no football played on the grounds having ceased more than 20 years ago.

The pistol club has been operating for approximately two years and now has about 35 members. It is a growing club with many young members. The major need at the pistol club is the connection of the electricity supply.

The management committee try to keep the lawn area around the hall watered and green but there is insufficient water available (under the license) for watering the main oval—nor funds to pump it if there was.

The Committee believe that the Hall interior is starting to look a little bit tired and they believe that a freshen up is required. The Hall is used for various community meetings and events. The barbecue area is set slightly away from the hall building and

it is, reportedly, used as much as the kitchen for cooking. It has no shutters though, so it needs to be cleaned for each event. There is also no covered walkway connecting it to the hall.

The management committee are unsure of their role and their responsibilities for the Reserve versus those of the new, amalgamated Council and they would like this clarified

A comment was also made to improve the streetscape in front of the hotel as the hotel is the “heart of the village”.

The priorities set by those at the community meeting were:

- » High Priority:
  - upgrade the tennis courts with a synthetic surface and LED lights
  - refurbish the hall (interior)
- » Medium Priority:
  - add shutters to the barbecue shelter
  - build a walkway from the hall to the barbecue shelter
  - beautify the Reserve entrance
  - more money to allow purchase of more water to green the Oval for amenity.

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<sup>2</sup> There is a local hotel that would also hold some events

## Wanganella

The Wanganella Hall and parklands associated with it are a key resource in the village. They are well-maintained and attractive. Many of the projects in the Village Master Plan have been completed including the walking track to P. K. Edmunds Memorial Reserve (Peppin Merino).

There is a large open space area in the village (north of Brodribb Street and about 8.0 hectares) that is vacant land and could be used for open space if required (see Figure 4).

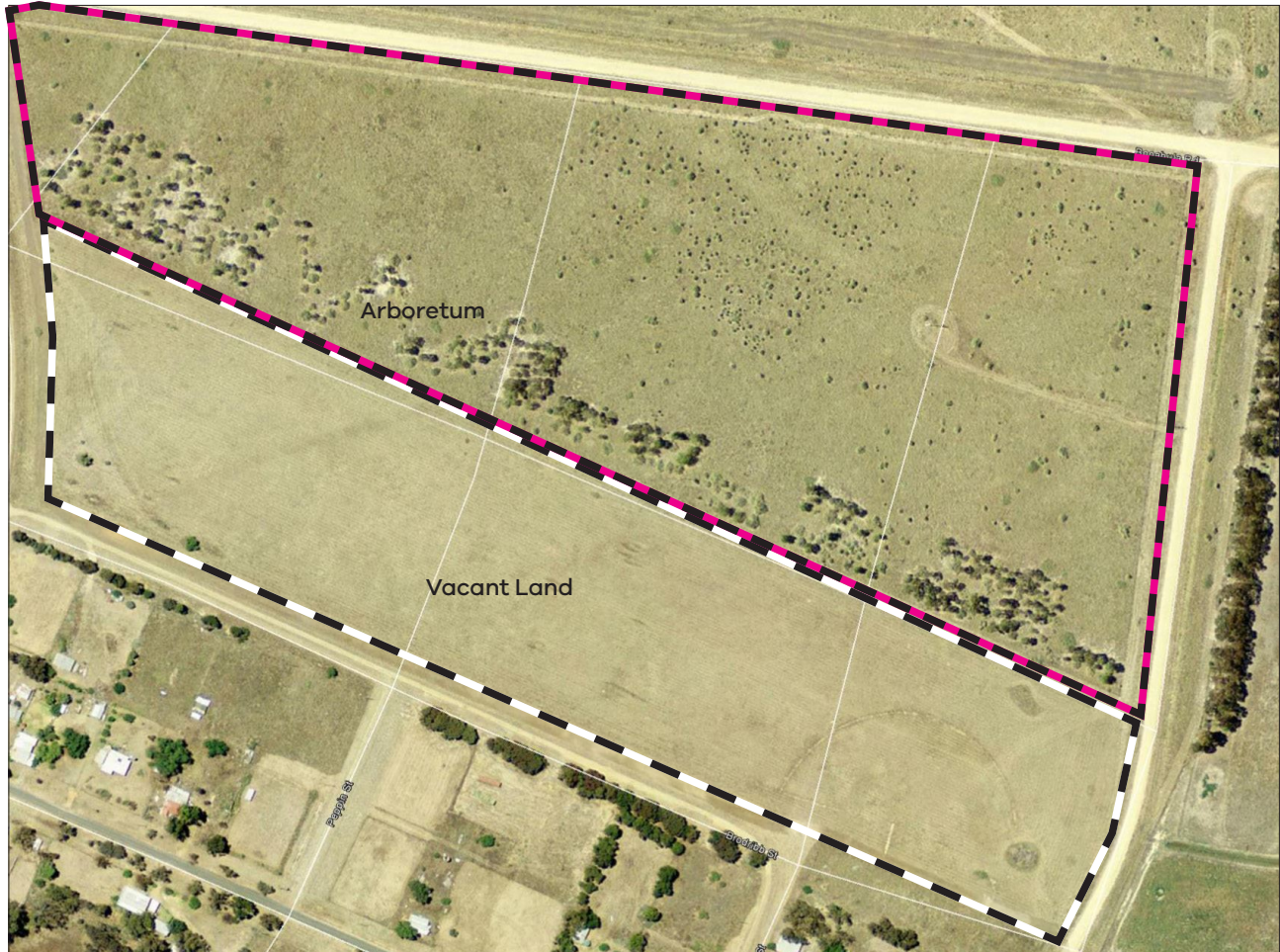
North of this block is the Arboretum. The Arboretum is approximately 12.0 hectares and the plantings appear to be native species. Reportedly the planting has been undertaken to “spell” some word but whatever the word it does not appear obvious from air photos. For the remainder of the Arboretum it has been reserved to see what native species return given that stock have now been fenced out. It is reported that a local resident volunteers her time to remove weed species (e.g. Bathurst Bur and African

Box Thorn) from the area.

Improvements in the Village that could be made include:

- » Light the tennis courts and do up the adjacent Bernard Keys Park. Young people from the surrounding properties play tennis fixtures
- » Plant trees at the east end of the hall parklands to screen views of housing (and this will probably be undertaken by the local community)
- » Improve the area between the hall and the road (west side)—requiring irrigation and tree planting
- » Grass areas at the Peppin Memorial to make it more welcoming
- » Provide vandal-proof picnic tables along the river camping and swimming areas.

Figure 4: Large open space areas in Wanganella





# Key Stakeholders

## Yarkuwa

Yarkuwa is an Indigenous Knowledge Centre though their input to this plan was at the broad community level.

Yarkuwa's two main priorities are:

- » an art space in J. P. Burchfield Jnr Park that could be developed with the cooperation of South West Arts, Yarkuwa and Council
- » the development of Eli Brown Park with toilets and interpretative materials. The toilets could house an exhibition (similar to the toilets at Conargo Reserve).

The Eli Brown Park development is seen as important as there are no public toilets along the Highway except at North Deniliquin. A development at Eli Brown Park would encourage visitors to stop near the CBD. Those with vans can leave them there where there is good street car parking and take the short walk to town along the lagoons. Yarkuwa would also like a Covered Learning Area in the park for school-based interpretative lessons.

Other ideas mentioned included:

- » an interpretation project on "The Flat" in partnership with the Library and the Visitor Information Centre. The project would interpret Indigenous and non-indigenous history of the Depression Camp that was located there.
- » an arts piece painted on the concrete blocks near the entrance to the Island Sanctuary.

## Deniliquin RSL Club

The Deniliquin RSL Club provide various sporting facilities and a park with playgrounds near the licensed club. The Club has recently installed a Liberty Swing in the park. The park is mowed by Council.

The RSL Bowls Club is looking for financial assistance (grants) to put in artificial greens and provide shade cover to make the facility more viable.

The Club is considering long term options for the tennis courts as the tennis club closed some ten years ago. There are no firm proposals at this stage.

The Club does not have plans for how these facilities will be developed but rather reacts to requests and ideas when it has some spare money.

## NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) manage the Murray Valley Regional Park which occupies much of the floodplain through Deniliquin.

The Murray Valley Regional Park is well used for walking, including with dogs on-leash, and for mountain biking. These are legal and well-managed activities.

Some illegal activity occurs—the riding of motorbikes and the dumping of rubbish. NPWS reported that this is typical of natural areas that are within or close to urban areas and while unfortunate, it is not unusual.

Perhaps more of an issue though is access by 4wd drivers in wet weather to try and bog their vehicles. The challenge is to see what they can drive through before their vehicle is bogged. In the process, a lot of damage can occur. NPWS is considering the installation of another gate to restrict access past Willoughby's Beach when tracks are wet. Access to Willoughby's Beach would then still be available. No detail is available yet, but this may need to be a joint partnership with Edward River Council.

Edward River Council assists NPWS in managing the Murray Valley Regional Park (e.g. rubbish removal) but there is no formal agreement in place. NPWS has limited resources and appreciates the level of cooperation from Edward River Council. So that the parties are clear on their responsibilities it was suggested that the management partnership should be formally agreed. This would allow better planning, scheduling and resource allocation and less chance of something "falling through the cracks".

# Community Survey

An online survey was made available to members of the public through Council's "Our Say" page. Despite a high level of publicity the response rate was low (n=16).

The following analysis covers only the information where there was a high level of agreement among the respondents which would tend to indicate that even with a larger sample a similar level of importance could be displayed.

The first question asked "How important are the following characteristics to your enjoyment of public open space?" and the following responses are worth noting:

- » Just under half (44%) of the respondents wanted open space that was close enough to walk or cycle to.
- » If the respondents had to drive to the open space then 69% were looking for easy car parking at the open space area.
- » Lots of shady trees was viewed as "somewhat important" by 63% of respondents.
- » The open space as a "Place to be physically active and healthy" was "somewhat important" or "very important" to 81% of respondents.
- » That pathways are connected into a system was "somewhat important" or "very important" to 63% of respondents.
- » That park users felt safe in the open space was "very important" to 69% of respondents.
- » That the facilities were well maintained and cleans was also important to 69% of respondents.

When asked about any other matters of importance two respondents talked of the need for paths for mobility scooters or wheelchairs. One respondent wanted recycle bins in all the open space areas.





Railway land that will, in part, be used for open space  
in the future





Eli Brown Park, Deniliquin





# Supply and Demand Assessment

In this section an analysis of the existing open space levels of provision is undertaken. The analysis is undertaken by open space type and by distribution.

An analysis of the location of playgrounds has also been undertaken to consider their distribution and establish whether there are sufficient numbers and whether they are in the right locations.

## Existing Open Space

The existing open space supply has been examined for Deniliquin and the six villages. The analysis for Deniliquin is more detailed and is covered in the following pages.

The supply levels in all the villages is considered to be adequate to meet the current and any foreseeable future needs of these communities. The analysis in these cases is a discussion about how to improve the quality of the supply and/or make it more manageable.

## Demand Assessment

This section presents a quantitative and spatial analysis of current and future open space requirements in Edward River Council.

Demand for recreation and sporting parkland is quantified by applying the CSL to the current and the projected population.

The current supply is determined and the gaps between what is required, and what is provided, both now, and in the future, are established.

Recommendations to address these gaps complete the analysis.

### Open Space—Deniliquin

#### Current Supply

Open space areas within and adjacent to Deniliquin town have been examined and classified according to the criteria established earlier (see Table 2).

The results of the classification can be found in Table 6 and are mapped in Figure 5.

There is a total supply of 509.2 hectares. This is a very large amount of open space for a township of this size though it is of course influenced by the red gum forests of the Murray Valley Regional Park and some large specialised sporting reserves (e.g. the racecourse).





Table 6: Open space areas in Deniliquin<sup>1</sup>

| Open Space Type | Hierarchy   | Area (ha)    |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Amenity         |             | 1.7          |
| Conservation    |             | 69.6         |
| Recreation      | District    | 8.9          |
| Recreation      | Linkage     | 5.5          |
| Recreation      | Local       | 3.5          |
| Recreation      | Outdoor     | 70.9         |
| Recreation      | Regional    | 2.6          |
| Sport           | District    | 40.4         |
| Sport           | Specialised | 228.9        |
| Unallocated     |             | 76.2         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    |             | <b>509.2</b> |

## Gap Analysis—Deniliquin

Table 7 shows the demand for recreation open space in Deniliquin township for the current population of approximately 8,000 people.

Table 7: Application of CSL to Deniliquin recreation open space

| Open Space Type | Actual Area | Required Area <sup>§</sup> | Current Shortfall or Surplus |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Local           | 3.5         | 5.6                        | -2.1                         |
| District        | 8.9         | 7.2                        | 1.7                          |
| Regional        | 2.6         | 3.2                        | -0.6                         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>15</b>   | <b>16</b>                  | <b>-1</b>                    |

<sup>§</sup> Calculated using the CSL

What is not factored into the above calculations is the large amount of land that falls under the categories of Recreation/Linkage, Recreation/Outdoor, and Conservation. These categories are used for recreation in Deniliquin. In our professional assessment there is not an overall shortage of the open space types mentioned in Table 7 despite being a hectare below the CSL. However, there are deficiencies in its distribution that are discussed later.

<sup>1</sup> Community Facility land has not been assessed. While some of it is supplied within the parklands of Deniliquin, much of it is not and so it would be misleading to include it in this assessment.

Table 8: Assigned classifications to recreation parks in Deniliquin

| Name                        | Classification | Hierarchy | Area (ha) |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Waring Gardens              | Recreation     | Regional  | 2.58      |
| Blake Park Reserve          | Recreation     | District  | 1.90      |
| Eli Brown Park              | Recreation     | District  | 1.28      |
| Gorman Park                 | Recreation     | District  | 0.10      |
| Gorman Park                 | Recreation     | District  | 0.56      |
| Gorman Park                 | Recreation     | District  | 0.36      |
| Hynes Park (Deniliquin RSL) | Recreation     | District  | 0.40      |
| J P Burchfield Jnr Park     | Recreation     | District  | 0.05      |
| J P Burchfield Jnr Park     | Recreation     | District  | 0.79      |
| Matthews Park               | Recreation     | District  | 1.33      |
| McFaull Park                | Recreation     | District  | 1.41      |
| Scott's Park                | Recreation     | District  | 0.11      |
| Scott's Park                | Recreation     | District  | 0.65      |
| R J Edwards Park            | Recreation     | Local     | 2.46      |
| Robertson Crescent Park     | Recreation     | Local     | 0.08      |
| Robertson Crescent Park     | Recreation     | Local     | 0.09      |
| Tenant Park                 | Recreation     | Local     | 0.29      |
| Townsend Park               | Recreation     | Local     | 0.29      |
| Burton Street Park          | Recreation     | Local     | 0.28      |

For information, the parks, their area, and the assigned catchment level is shown in Table 8.

There is only one parkland that is considered regional in nature—Waring Gardens—and that is appropriate given the size of the town and region, and available resources.

Council’s planners estimate that Deniliquin is likely to experience moderate/low population growth of approximately 1,500 people over the next 20 years (9,500 people by 2037). The expected growth has been compared to the current supply of open space and the CSL in Table 9.

Table 9: Application of CSL to Deniliquin recreation open space for 2037 population

| Open Space Type | Actual Area | Required Area <sup>§</sup> | Current Shortfall or Surplus |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Local           | 3.5         | 6.65                       | -3.15                        |
| District        | 8.9         | 8.55                       | 0.35                         |
| Regional        | 2.6         | 3.8                        | -1.2                         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>15</b>   | <b>19</b>                  | <b>-4</b>                    |

<sup>§</sup> Calculated using the CSL and the forecast 2037 population

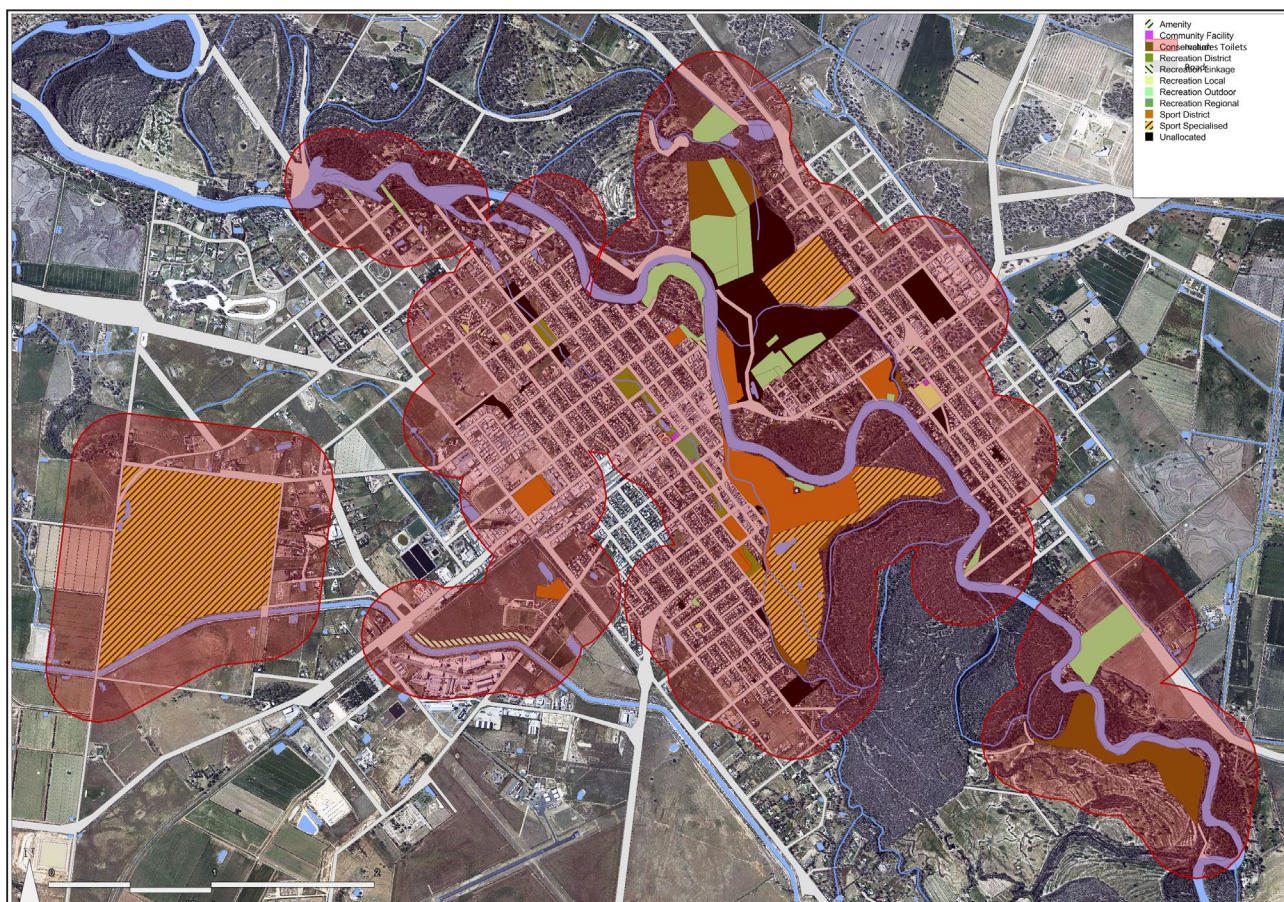
The small current deficit of one hectare increases to four hectares by 2037. This will necessitate an increase in supply, but this will be achieved by using some existing land holdings such as Nesbit’s Bequest that is currently “unallocated” and new land from the conversion of the railway corridor from Poictiers Street to Wood Street).

Figure 6 maps the proximity of residential areas to a recreation open space—the accessibility standard. Areas shaded red are within 400 metres of a recreation park. This map makes no reference to the quality of the open space or its embellishment. What it shows though is that all areas, except approximately six residential blocks in southern Deniliquin are within a 5-minute walk (or 400 metres) of an open space area. This gap in supply can be addressed by development of the rail corridor mentioned earlier.

The analysis on playgrounds later in this report analyses proximity to a playground as a measure of park quality.

Most new housing is expected in the southern area of Deniliquin as extensions of the urban area. There will be a need to add to the open space supply in this area as the population grows.

Figure 6: Accessibility to open space





## Playgrounds

Figure 7 plots those recreation parks with a playground and then has drawn (the green shading) a 5-minute walking catchment from each.

There are four significant areas of residential population that are not well-served by a playground (the numbered blue-shaded areas).

- » Area 1 is the smallest area and affects houses just a little too distant from Scott's Park.
- » Area 2 is quite large with many households not having ready access to a playground. It is the most urgent and the most significant.
- » Area 3 is on the north side of the River. There is only one playground north of the River at R. J. Edwards Park. There is a need for a second playground to service this quite linear residential area.
- » Area 4 in the south, while not large yet, will get larger as this is where much of the new housing will be developed in coming years.

Commentary on each playground can be found in Table 9. The playgrounds at Scott's Park, R. J. Edwards Park and the Deniliquin RSL Park are the more interesting examples in Deniliquin though

Waring Gardens is also quite good for its target market of very small children. Other playgrounds are often small, old and in need of rejuvenation.

The playground at Robertson Crescent Park is required to service a large number of households and it would benefit from new elements being added to add variety and interest. A shade cover would also add to the appeal, particularly in summer.

The playground at Burton Street Park is old and should be replaced as a matter of priority. However, its replacement could also be in Bill Atwell Park which is almost opposite. Burton Street Park has a small road frontage and has very bad drainage. If the playground is replaced here, then drainage solutions need to be considered.

Bill Atwell Park is a more attractive park and would be a better location if the issues of unauthorised access can be addressed. This park is used by many adjoining neighbours for rear property access. If this access can be stopped then this park is the preferred location for a new playground.

As a general comment sand, despite being quite common and easy to obtain in Deniliquin, is not used as a softfall. The softfall in the playgrounds is

Figure 7: Accessibility to a playground



Table 9: Playground locations and commentary

| Park                             | Classification      | Playground Shade                                | Comment   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Burton Street Park               | Recreation/Local    | No  | A very old timber playground in very poor condition that needs removal. A new playground is required in this park, or as an alternative, in Bill Atwell Park which is only 60 metres away.  |
| Deniliquin RSL Club (Hynes Park) | Recreation/District | Yes   | A wide range of play equipment makes it one that can keep children amused for longer. The Park has a recently installed Liberty Swing for children with a disability.   |
| Memorial Park                    | Sport/ District     | No  | Small playgrounds as adjunct to the sporting facilities. Only suited to young children.   |
| R J Edwards Park                 | Recreation/Local    | Yes   | A good playground with an interesting suite of modern elements. Adding sand as softfall in some or all of the playground would add another play element. This playground is the only public playground on the north side of the River.                    |
| Robertson Crescent Park          | Recreation/Local    | No  | Older range of equipment, some of it made of timber. Needs a refresh with new elements added. Add some sand as softfall for a new play element. This park serves a large number of residents but the quality of the playground is not reflective of that. |
| Scott's Park                     | Recreation/District | No  | Older boutique playground with many unique items. Has the "Rocket" which is loved by the community. The playground is considered the main playground for Edward River and will be upgraded in 2018/2019.  |
| Tenant Park                      | Recreation/Local    | No  | An old playground in need of rejuvenation. Only has a basic range of activity elements.   |
| Townsend Park                    | Recreation/Local    | No  | An old playground in need of rejuvenation. It is not required as it is close to Tenant Park and Burton Street Park playgrounds. It can be removed.  |
| Waring Gardens                   | Recreation/Regional | No (but trees would often shade the playground) | A playground for very young children only which is suited to this park (more active play can be found at Scott's Park). Some rejuvenation with new/modern elements should be undertaken.  |

usually bark chips or similar materials. Sand as a softfall has some advantages over bark materials, principal among those being that it has less compaction through use and after rain it dries out much quicker. Sand also has the advantage of being a play element in its own right. Children, particularly younger children, will often play in the sand as long as they play on the playground. Sand allows them to use their imaginations and play in an unstructured way.

Over time, new playgrounds will be required to address the gaps in distribution. Five new playgrounds are recommended in the following locations. Figure 8 illustrates how these playgrounds address the distribution shortfall. The locations are:

1. a small playground in Warren Drive Amenity park aimed at smaller children that walk to the park with their carers. A more significant playground should be developed in Burton Street Park (or Bill Atwell Park) for older children and/or for variety.
2. A significant playground should be developed in the railway corridor when it is redeveloped. This playground will have a large catchment that does not have other opportunities. In the railway corridor there is likely to be a pathway that will connect to other open space areas, so it is a natural attractor and a good place to site the playground.
3. Lions Park is quite large and a playground in this park would serve many households in the south. It would also be a good addition to the small Robertson Crescent Park playground that has little variety but is serving the needs of many households.
4. There is only one playground north of the River at R. J. Edwards Park. While this is a good playground and it is well positioned it cannot serve the needs of all households in North Deniliquin given the linear nature of development around it. A second playground is required. It is suggested that the vacant land off Victoria Street between Coborro and Quarry Streets (Lot 20 DP44536) be developed as a park. As with some other vacant sites across Deniliquin unauthorised access through the site needs to be curtailed before it can be a safe destination for children.
5. With more and more development occurring in



the southern portion of Deniliquin the need for a playground to service these new households will grow. Nesbit's Bequest (Lot 157 DP756325) could be developed as a very attractive parkland with a playground to serve this adjacent community.

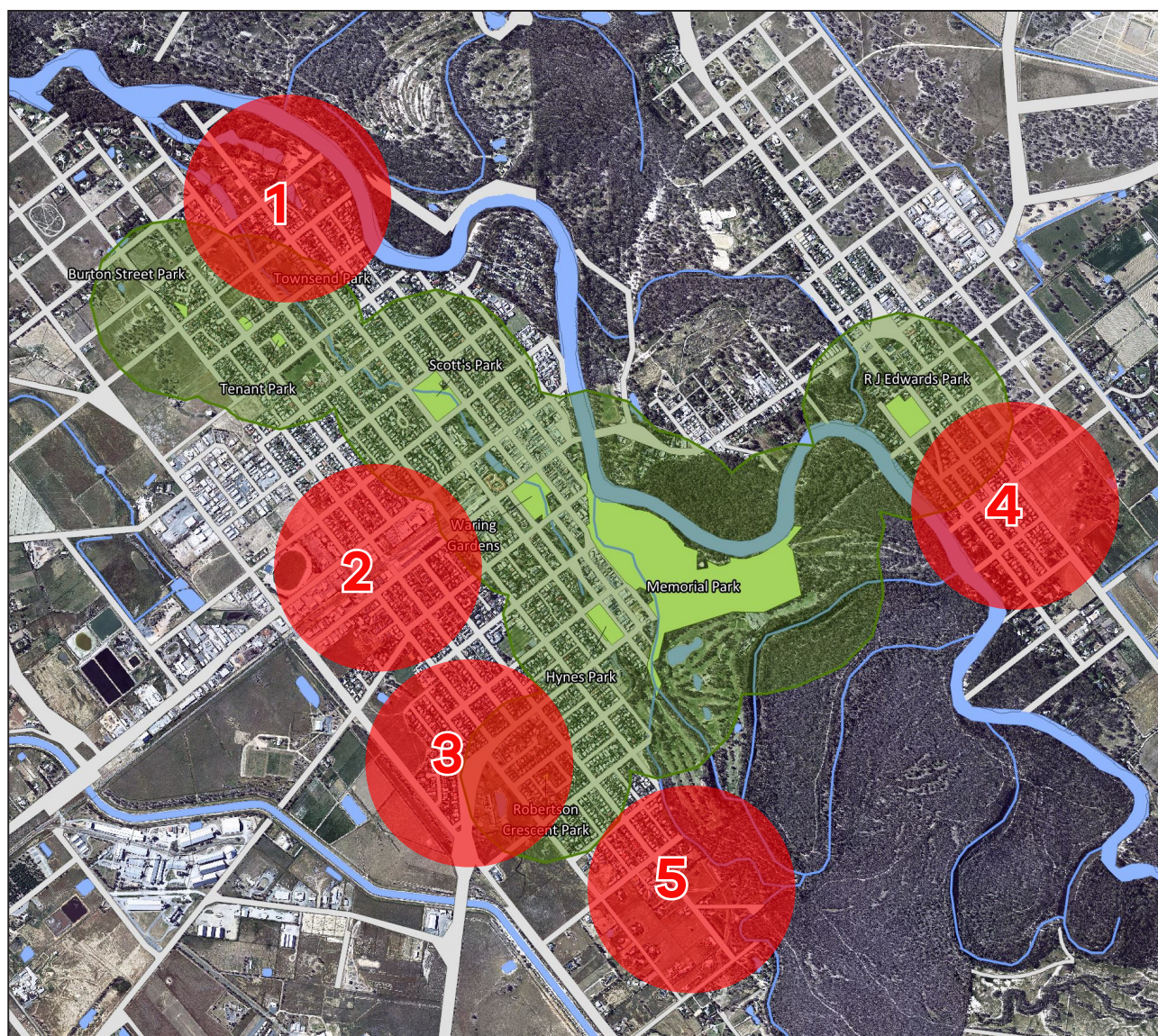
## Vacant Land

The analysis has identified some land that is being maintained by Council but is not fit for use as open space and/or will not be required in the future. Maintaining these lands is a cost for Council that may be better directed into other parts of the open space portfolio or elsewhere. Disposing of these sites if they are no longer required for any Council function, may realise some funds to implement the recommendations of this Strategy. Land that has been identified as surplus to open space requirements, and that should be reviewed for other Council functions, are described below and are mapped in Figure 9. If it is found that there is no Council need for the land, then options for disposal should be considered.

The sites are (the numbers on Figure 9 correspond to the description):

1. These two areas are opposite each other and

Figure 8: Locations for new playgrounds to address gaps in accessibility





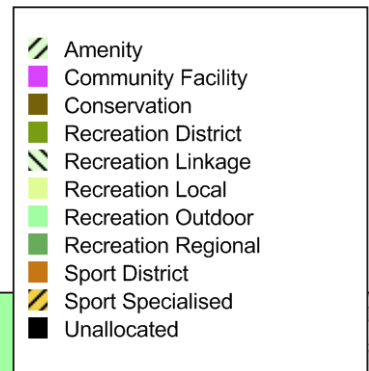
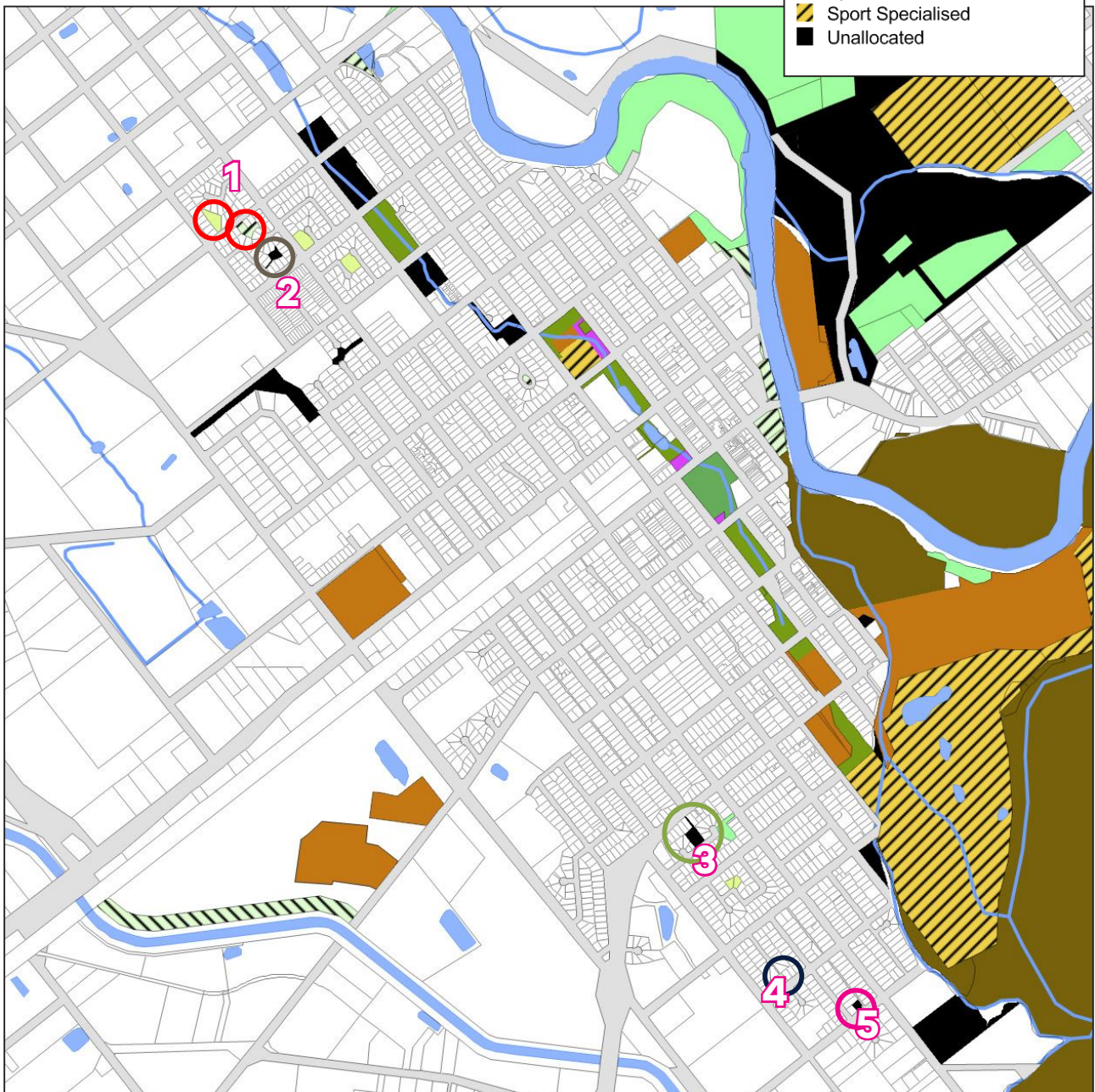


Figure 9: Land that may be potentially be redeployed or disposed of.





only one area is required. Burton Street Park has the current playground, but it is old and of little value. The park has poor drainage and has a narrow road frontage. Bill Atwell Park has a much nicer ambience and is well landscaped with good turf and trees. It has no embellishment and is subject to a high level of unauthorised use. Of the two, Bill Atwell Park is the preferred location for a redeveloped playground to create a local park but only if the unauthorised use ceases.

2. This area (1,374 m<sup>2</sup>) off Johnston Crescent is unsuitable for public access as it is totally obscured from public view except for a three-metre access way.
3. This site (2,667 m<sup>2</sup>) is in Norris Court and is surplus to requirements.
4. This site is off Ross Street and connects through to Stratton Court. It is 556 m<sup>2</sup> and is surplus to requirements.
5. This site is off Pakenham Street. It is approximately 740 m<sup>2</sup> and is surplus to requirements.

## Sporting Open Space

There is sufficient sporting open space in Deniliquin for the existing and future populations. There are 40 hectares of district sporting open space which is about double that required by the CSL. However, as is typical in rural areas sport is very important and higher levels of such land are generally provided.

Edward River Oval is not currently used for sport though it should be retained in that role in case of future need.

While the sports community provided little input into this document, consultation that was undertaken supports the notion that there is a sufficient supply of sporting land.

This is not to say that the land is perfectly suited to its chosen activity and cannot be improved. Some sites, Memorial Park in particular, would benefit from a master plan and business plan covering the development and management of the site.

## Connectivity (Walking Trails)

Connecting the open space system makes the individual parks more accessible and more valuable. There are two aspects relating to connectivity:

- » connecting open space areas
- » connecting communities.

Planning physical connections between open space areas seeks to maximise outcomes for a range of values by consolidating and linking otherwise isolated and fragmented land areas. The principle of connectivity is based on synergy, where the value of the whole is greater than the value of the individual parts.

Edward River Council has already developed the very popular Beach to Beach Walk. There have been long standing thoughts in the community that a complementary Living Lagoons Walk could also be developed. This report supports such a development but does not go into detail as it has been developed in detail in the Edward River Public Spaces Strategy.

Council has received recent grant funding that will allow for some of the system to be constructed (but not all of it). There are two extensions to the walking system that would add significant value to the system over the long term and are:

- » Link the Beach to Beach Walk from Island Sanctuary/Memorial Park to the Murray Valley Regional Park (northern section) via a swing bridge (a wire rope suspension bridge) over the Edward River. Such a connection would allow for loop walking along the Beach to Beach Walk and through the red gum forests of the Murray Valley Regional Park and back over the road bridge in Napier Street.  
The swing bridge could be expected to have value as a tourist attraction—another reason to stop in Deniliquin with subsequent economic as well as health and physical activity benefits.
- » The second is an extension of the Living Lagoon Walk along the rail corridor to link a significant portion of the population in South Deniliquin into the system via an off-road pathway.

Residents with dogs often use the walking path system for exercising their dogs. Throughout the consultation the lack of a dog off-leash area was raised often.

It is suggested that a portion of Edward River Oval, perhaps the area nearest the road bridge, be fenced and made available as a dog off-leash area.

## Existing Open Space—Blighty

Open space in Blighty (Figure 10) is focussed on the Blighty Recreation Reserve though there is a small roadside open space area outside the hotel that has recently been upgraded by Council.

Like some of the other villages there is no clustering of houses to define Blighty, so the recreation reserve is the place the community, that mostly reside on farms, meet for sport or social functions. Blighty Recreation Reserve, in winter, is the focus of the popular football and netball competitions. The hall is used for social and educational functions all year.

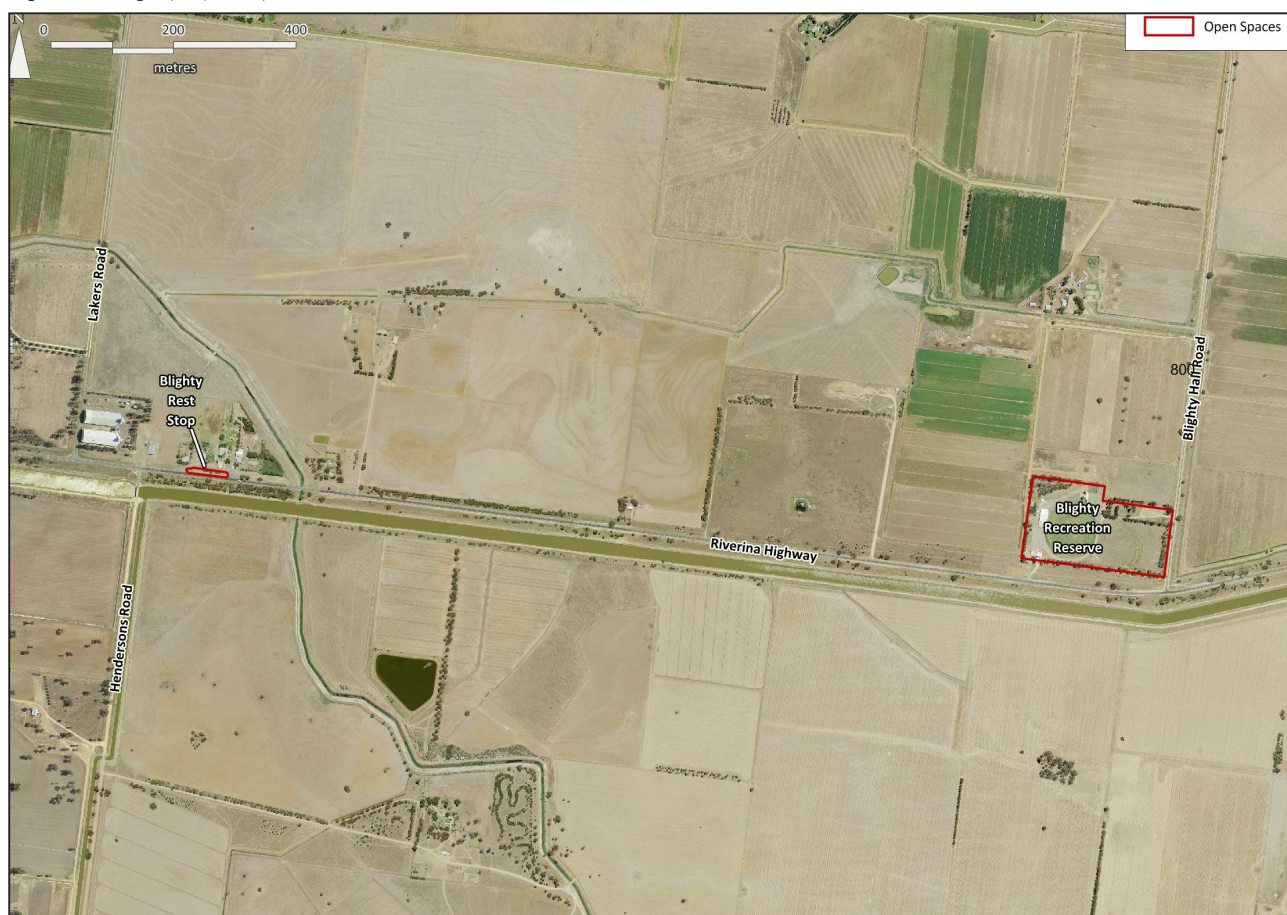
The netball and tennis courts have recently been upgraded and a new clubhouse is scheduled in 2018. The playgrounds are adequate for the level of use

that the Reserve receives.

There is no need for additional open space in Blighty though there could be improvements to the Reserve. Many of these improvements are mentioned in the Blighty Masterplan report though the value of the pathways needs to be reconsidered.

The highest priority on the Reserve now is to seal and formalise the car park. A sealed car park will reduce dust and mud issues and the result of it being formalised (lined and with bollards etc.) it will be a more efficient and safer car park.

Figure 10: Blighty Open Space





## Existing Open Space—Boooroorban

Boooroorban has two key public open space areas that are located on opposite sides of the village<sup>2</sup> (see Figure 11).

The key open space area is the community hall land. This land has the community hall, gymnasium, covered playground, and public toilets. It is adjacent to the old school site and the local fire shed. It is the public community heart for the Village and needs to be retained and improved over time.

The sports reserve has a cricket pitch with an artificial surface in fair condition. There is a relatively new shelter but all other facilities, including the toilets, are decrepit. This open space should be retained as there may be a need for it in the future however, at this point, there is no demand to utilise the facilities and no improvements should be carried out.

<sup>2</sup> If the village is defined by the hotel

Figure 11: Boooroorban Open Space





## Existing Open Space—Conargo

Conargo has several open space areas (see Figure 12). It does not require any new spaces for the existing or expected populations. The recent addition of Pottinger Park now provides an attractive open space area in the heart of the Village and along with the other parks such as the Reserve and Bill's Park, can meet the needs of the community and travellers.

The priority for the local community is improving the Conargo Swimming Reserve with modest improvements for comfort (e.g. tables and more seating). As the area can be flooded these improvements will need to be able to withstand such an occurrence.

There is no need for new open space and there is no excess open space that could be re-purposed.

Figure 12: Conargo Open Space





## Existing Open Space—Mayrung

Mayrung's open space is centred on the community hall (Figure 13). There is no urban area at Mayrung. The open space currently acts as a venue for events and community gatherings. In the past it has provided sporting opportunities such as tennis and cricket but there is currently no community use of the sporting facilities (though the school does use the tennis courts).

The public open space melds with that owned by the Church and the Mayrung Public School. Each of the groups allows use by the others in a cooperative, but casual arrangement.

There is no need for additional open space in Mayrung. In fact, there is too much and the Mayrung Village Masterplan suggested leasing the cricket ground for grazing and applying any revenue to community projects.

The future focus for open space in Mayrung is to undertake incremental improvement of the open space surrounding the hall and the connectivity with the adjacent school and church.

Figure 13: Mayrung Open Space





## Existing Open Space—Pretty Pine

Pretty Pine only has the one open space—the Pretty Pine Recreation Reserve (Figure 14).

An adjacent, privately-owned paddock is also used for various horse sports such as polocrosse.

The open space has a community hall and caretaker's cottage as well as facilities for sports such as football, cricket, pistol shooting, rodeo, pony club and tennis.

By and large there is enough open space to meet the needs of the local community and no major improvements are required. There are recommendations for minor improvements later in this Strategy.

Figure 14: Pretty Pine Open Space



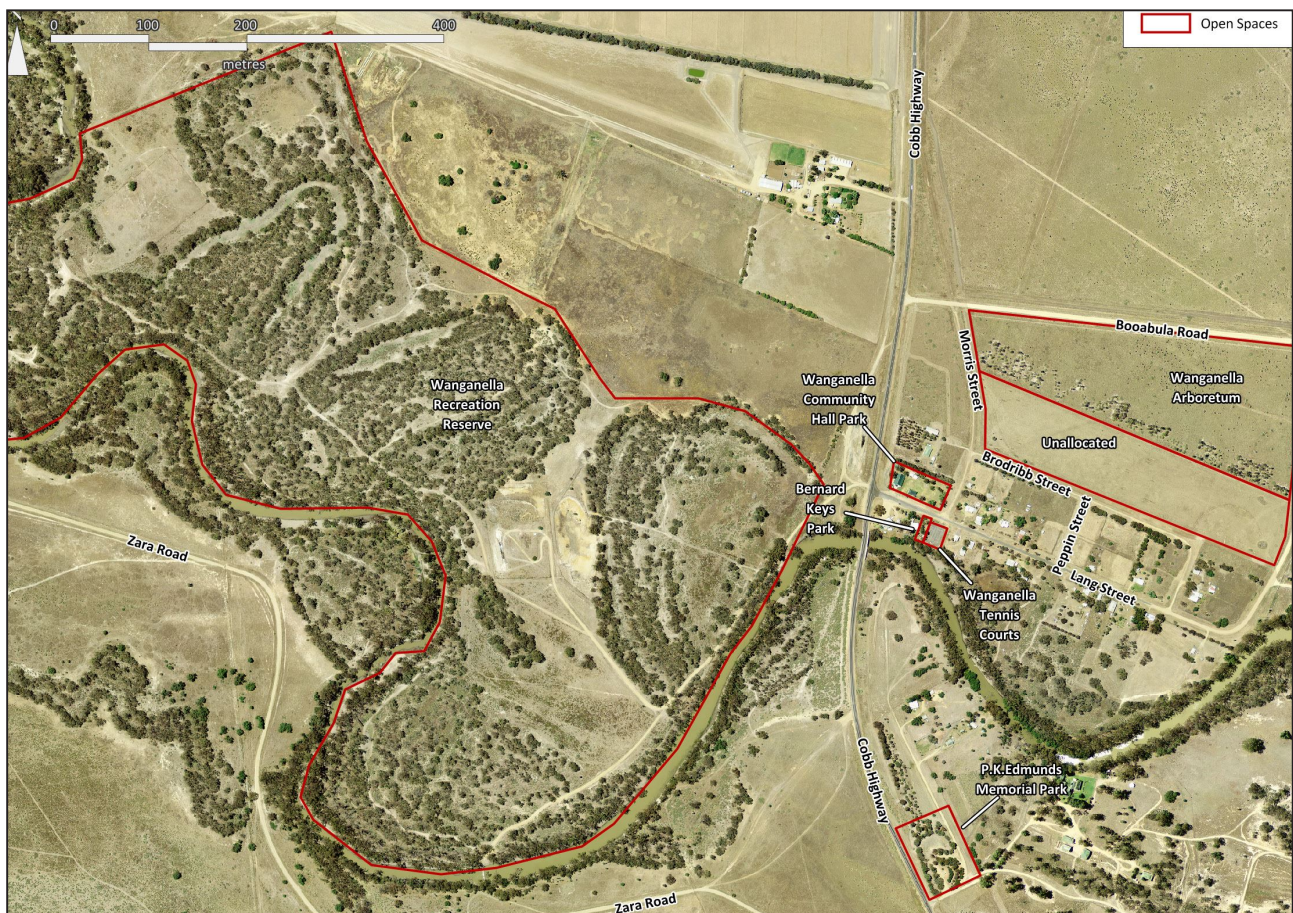


## Existing Open Space—Wanganella

Wanganella has a large amount of open space and some of it is surplus to community need.

The key areas for Wanganella are the Community Hall Reserve, Arboretum and the Camping Reserve and recommendations about embellishments are made later in the Strategy.

Figure 15: Wanganella Open Space







Scott's Park



# Scott's Park and BMX Park

Scott's Park and BMX Park are located adjacent to each other in the same town block as the swimming pool and community garden (see Figure 16).

Scott's Park has a substantial playground that is generally considered the best in Deniliquin. However, it is an older design and there is a desire in the community for a modern playground that utilises some of the more exciting play equipment that is now available.

BMX Park was once established as a course for a BMX Club. The BMX Club ceased many years ago and since then there has been almost no attention paid to the area. However, it remains popular with a number of youths who have fashioned the jumps to more of a dirt jump course.

Consultation on the future of Scott's Park and BMX Park was undertaken to gather community input into an eventual detailed design.

## Site Assessment

The design needs to reflect the site conditions. The initial master design has considered:

### Scott's Park

- » The existing play equipment is handmade and one-off. It is fondly remembered by many in the community and is associated with Alexander John Francis Scott after whom the park is named.
- » The Rocket is a key feature in the Park and one of only a few that remain open for use.<sup>1</sup> There is a strong desire in the community to retain the

rocket.

- » The existing playground is quite extensive with too much distance between like elements. It would benefit from a tighter layout. A tighter layout makes it easier for parents to mind their children, children can move between play items more easily and there is less softfall to maintain.
- » The site is fully fenced. Between Scott's Park and BMX Park is a typical 1.8m security fence.
- » The site is relatively flat, so drainage needs to be considered in the detailed design stages.
- » Car parking is all street-based. It is considered that there is sufficient street parking for the expected crowds. To add car parking on the park would utilise space that cannot be spared if an exciting design is implemented.
- » The site has electricity, water and is sewered.

Figure 16: Site map for Scott's and BMX Park



<sup>1</sup> Many rockets have been shuttered or removed by Council's that consider the risk of injury to be too high



- » There is a small unisex toilet that is clean and tidy. However, there is no all-access toilet or baby changing table.

## BMX Park

- » There are few services or improvements in BMX Park. From a planning perspective it is essentially a “clean sheet”.
- » While there are a few trees they are old and may need to be removed to allow for the design. New trees would be planted in the right locations to provide shade and for beautification.
- » The site is enclosed on all sides by a 1.8m security fence though the gates appear to be permanently left open.
- » Car parking is all street-based. It is considered that there is sufficient street parking for the expected crowds. Most users will arrive at the site using their bicycles.
- » The site is relatively flat, so drainage needs to be considered in the detailed design stages, particularly draining the areas between the pump tracks.
- » The site is currently focussed on dirt jumps with a limited appeal. It is possible to introduce additional elements to broaden the use of the park.

## What is a Pump Track?

A pump track is a type of off-road terrain for cycle sport consisting of a circuit of banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders “pumping” - creating momentum by up and down body movements. They are relatively simple and cheap to construct, and cater to a wide variety of rider skill levels, so are popular in council owned parks and schools (source Wikipedia)





# Concept Master Plan

A draft concept master plan has been prepared that responds to the site conditions, consultation and approximate budget potentially available (Figure 17).

The design integrates the two sites via a flowing path between the entrances. The path also divides the play area into zones that will have different appeal by age.

New play equipment that is exciting is introduced such as a pyramid and a zip line. The rocket is retained while the existing boutique equipment is relocated to the north east side.

A new accessible toilet is added beside the existing toilet.

Sand as softfall is used in several places. The sand is a play element in its own right. Rubber softfall is used under higher risk play items.

A pump track is the centre-piece of BMX Park. Additional youth-focussed items such as half courts and dirt jumps are provided.

## Master Plan Key

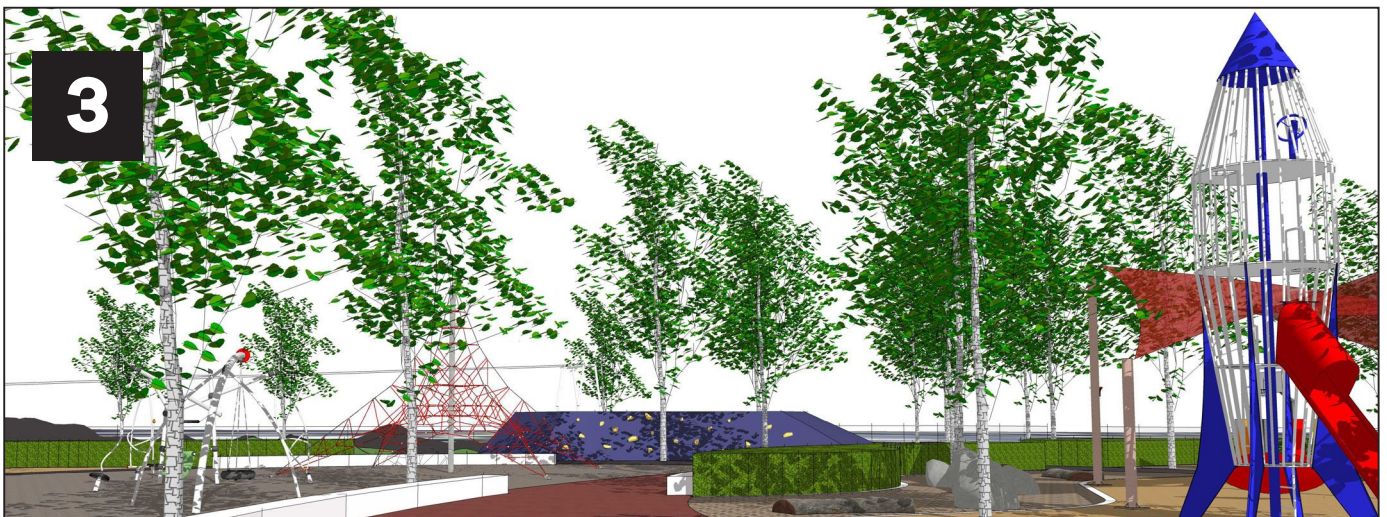
- 1 New entrance with wide central path that connects through both parks
- 2 Existing toilets supplemented by all access toilet with baby changing table
- 3 Shelters (2) with barbecues and seating
- 4 Rocket is retained
- 5 Existing play equipment will be relocated here
- 6 Double zip line
- 7 New play equipment incl. climbing pyramid and all-abilities play items
- 8 Toddler play with sand under
- 9 Pump track
- 10 Half basketball and netball court
- 11 Area for locating dirt jumps
- 12 Entrance to BMX Park

Figure 17: Draft concept master plan





# DRAFT CONCEPT





# PLAN IMAGES



## Key

- 1 Aerial view from south west over BMX Park
- 2 Aerial view from north west over Scott's Park
- 3 View into the park from Scott's Park entrance
- 4 Aerial view of main playground
- 5 Aerial view from south east over BMX Park



## Linkage

Linking Scott's Park, BMX Park and the swimming pool into the Living lagoons walk would make accessing them by residents, particularly younger children, much easier than negotiating the streets. Tourists that stop at Eli Brown Park could also use the pathway to access the facilities.

This linkage is explored more in the Edward River Public Spaces Strategy.

## Costing

While a final cost estimate is only available after detailed design plans have been developed, a preliminary estimate of cost for the master plan, as presented, is approximately \$680,000 (ex GST). Additional fees should be allowed for preparing detailed design plans, any required approvals and an allowance for contingency.

# STOP PRESS!

On the 23rd February 2018 the Member for Murray, Austin Evans, announced that Edward River Council will benefit from over \$1.2 million in funding. The projects include an upgrade to the Deniliquin Swim Centre, installation of a destination playground at Scott's Park, and a Lagoon to River walk.

Edward River Mayor Norm Brennan said the announcement of funding for these projects is tremendous news for our community. The Mayor said further "the three projects funded have all received strong community support and will provide wonderful benefits. We would like thank our Local Member Austin Evans and the Government for this support".

## Silo Art



The water reservoir at the corner of Russell and Whitelock Streets is not in service and is not required for water storage purposes.

It presents as an opportunity to add public art into the community. The photograph shown above shows one of the original silo art designs and something similar, though on a slightly smaller scale could be implemented on the reservoir.

As the reservoir is adjacent to the Scott's Park playground, a design featuring children would be appropriate.

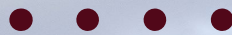
If the design was lit at night, then the reservoir would act as a "beacon" in West Deniliquin assisting with wayfinding for those less acquainted with the neighbourhood.





Boutique playground equipment in Scott's Park





Deniliquin Soccer Club grounds



# Recommendations

Recommendations, for clarity, are organised under the following headings:

- » General—being recommendations that are Council-wide
- » Deniliquin—recommendations for open space that is centred on Deniliquin
- » Villages—recommendations for open space that is centred on each of the six villages.

A priority has been allocated to each recommendation. They are:

- » Immediate (or as soon as possible)
- » Ongoing—a recommendation that generally needs to be repeated in a cycle (e.g. annual inspections)
- » High—when funds allow but aiming for the next four years
- » Medium—when funds allow but aiming for the next eight years
- » Low—when funds allow but of a lower priority than above.

Allocating priorities is difficult as interested parties often see their project as more important than someone else's. As such Council will need to review priorities from time to time to reflect available resources and community demand.

## General Recommendations

| No. | Recommendation   | Priority |
|-----|--|----------|
| 1   | <b>Adoption of Strategy</b><br>Review recommendations in this Strategy and coordinate priorities and time frames across Council with other planning strategies. Undertake a regular process for undertaking reviews and reporting outcomes. Complete a major review of this Strategy within five years (i.e. 2023). Ensure that tasks are allocated to an appropriate staff member and that expected progress towards outcomes is documented and reviewed from time to time. | Ongoing  |
| 2   | <b>Budgeting and Maintenance</b><br>Review annual budget allocations for open space purposes to ensure adequate funding is available for the development and management of open space. Available budgets need to be allocated to deliver an agreed level of service commensurate with the open space classification of the site.   | Ongoing  |



| No. | Recommendation   | Priority   |
|-----|--|--|
| 3   | <b>Deniliquin RSL Club</b><br>Initiate dialogue with the Deniliquin RSL Club as they are a player in providing open space, playgrounds and sports facilities in Deniliquin. Discuss future plans for their sites and how positive outcomes can be realised for the community and the Club.   | Ongoing  |
| 4   | <b>Regulatory Signage</b><br>Install regulatory signs in all parks and open spaces setting out what is allowed (as a risk management mechanism). Regulatory signage is required for effective local law enforcement. Signage should stress that is an offence to drive private vehicles on Council's open space.   | High and ongoing                                 |
| 5   | <b>Public Toilets</b><br>Ensure that all public toilet locations are loaded onto the National Public Toilet Map ( <a href="https://toiletmap.gov.au/">https://toiletmap.gov.au/</a> ). Detail baby changing facilities as well.  | High and ongoing                                 |
| 6   | <b>Asset Management Plans</b><br>Develop asset management plans for all significant, Council-controlled, community infrastructure. Undertake asset condition audits and then implement catch up maintenance as required and then program future maintenance with work crews. The information should also be used to shape future budgets.  | High   |
| 7   | <b>Master Planning</b><br>A number of parks would benefit from the development of a master plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Memorial Park including a business plan to improve management of the site (High)</li> <li>» The railway corridor including a pathway extension from the Living Lagoons Walk and a playground to service the local community that do not have ready access to any playground (high/medium).</li> <li>» Eli Brown Park as a tourist/visitor park with parking (on-street) for vans. Use Lagoon Walk for easy access to CBD. Will need public toilets and visitor info. Consider an adult changing facility in the design (high/medium).</li> <li>» Lions Park road reserve off Cobb highway particularly in relation to a playground but potentially some tourist information facilities (high/medium).</li> <li>» Nesbit's Bequest to accommodate new residential housing in South Deniliquin (medium)</li> <li>» Rotary Park prior to any additional development on the site.</li> </ul> | Priority is indicated beside each recommendation |
| 8   | <b>Surplus Land</b><br>The analysis has identified a number of parcels of land that are surplus to open space requirements. There are five sites in Deniliquin (see pages 39-41). These areas are absorbing maintenance budgets that may be better directed elsewhere. The need for these areas for other Council functions should be determined and if there is no need then disposal strategies should be considered.  | High   |
| 9   | <b>Fees and Charges</b><br>With the amalgamation of the two shires there is some disparity with fees charged and services provided between different groups using public open space. The fees and charges schedules need to be reviewed and aligned to provide equity across the region.   | High   |
| 10  | <b>Sports Facility Plan</b><br>Develop a sports facility plan that focusses on sporting facility needs at the local level. The Sports Decentralisation Program: Capacity and Capability Assessment report is focussed on attracting events and does not detail the facility needs to sustain local competitions.   | High/<br>Medium                                  |
| 11  | <b>Park Name Signage</b><br>Design and implement park name signage in a consistent corporate style across the Edward River Council area.   | Medium   |



# Deniliquin

| No. | Recommendation   | Priority         |
|-----|--|------------------|
| 12  | <b>North Deniliquin Tennis Club</b><br>Liaise with North Deniliquin Tennis Club and establish/agree a deadline to reinstate the courts and have an active competition. If no significant progress is made by then pursue other options including the ideas canvassed in "Love Game" or remove the courts and incorporate the land into the adjacent parkland.  | Immediate        |
| 13  | <b>Murray Valley Regional Park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Liaise with NPWS to develop effective strategies to stop 4wd vehicles from destroying the forest, particularly when it is wet and muddy.</li> <li>» Continue to develop mountain bike and walking trails in Murray Valley Regional Park. Promote the destination as a tourist drawcard.</li> <li>» Formalise management arrangements for the Murray Valley Regional Park. In particular clarify Council's role and commitment to the Park's management.</li> </ul> | High and ongoing |
| 14  | <b>Fire Station</b><br>Engage with authorities about the long-term relocation of the fire station to allow for street closures for events in George Street.  | Ongoing          |
| 15  | <b>Pathways—Living Lagoons</b><br>When fully developed the Living Lagoons pathways will be highly used by locals and visitors alike (refer to the Public Spaces Strategy for further detail).<br><br>Water quality in the lagoons can occasionally be poor. Investigative and implement management responses as required to keep weed infestations (e.g. Duck Weed) under control.   | High             |
| 16  | <b>Pathways—Extensions</b><br>Two extensions of the Living Lagoons pathway should be developed over time. The feasibility of a swing bridge to extend the Beach to Beach Walk from Island Sanctuary/Memorial Park to the Murray Valley Regional Park (northern section) should be undertaken.<br><br>A second extension would see the Living Lagoons pathway extend through the rail corridor linking these residential areas into the off-road walking path system.   | High/medium      |
| 17  | <b>Dog Off-Leash Area</b><br>A dog off-leash area should be developed adjacent to Edward River Oval.   | High             |
| 18  | <b>River Access</b><br>Improve access to the River along the unformed Lilly Street in North Deniliquin. Improvements would include signage and a pathway.  | High             |



| No. | Recommendation  | Priority   |
|-----|---|--|
| 19  | <p><b>Playgrounds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Ensure that all playgrounds are inspected by a licensed playground inspector as required (ongoing).</li> <li>» Remove the playground in Tenant Park as it is surplus to requirements (High).</li> <li>» Proceed to develop a new regional playground in Scott's Park and BMX Park broadly in accordance with the master plan in this report.</li> <li>» Determine whether a new playground is to be built in Burton Street Park or Bill Atwell Park and construct (High/Medium).</li> <li>» Introduce sand as a softfall material over time (High/Medium).</li> <li>» Develop a small playground in Warren Drive Amenity Park (Medium/Low).</li> <li>» Develop a new playground in the railway corridor but not until a master plan is developed (High).</li> <li>» Develop a new playground in Lions Park (Medium).</li> <li>» Develop a new playground in the vacant land off Victoria Street but only if unauthorised vehicle access is stopped (Medium).</li> <li>» Develop a new playground in Nesbit's Bequest but not until a master plan is developed and population growth warrants it (Medium/Low).</li> </ul> | Priority is indicated beside each recommendation |
| 20  | <p><b>Streetscape</b></p> <p>This report has not focussed on streetscapes so there are no comprehensive recommendations in that regard. However, the Deniliquin Oval (RAMS) does not present the open space well to visitors (or residents). A streetscape plan should be developed for this section of the Cobb Highway and implemented. The area immediately inside the Oval boundary fence should be part of the streetscape plan.</p>   | High-Medium                                      |
| 21  | <p><b>Reservoir Art</b></p> <p>Paint the disused water reservoir adjacent to Scott's Park as public art. A theme that would appeal to children or that features children would be most suited to the location. When complete it will add beauty to the streetscape, act as a navigation point (particularly at night) and provide a tourist attraction. Consideration should also be given to incorporating the area of the reservoir into Scott's Park as an extension of the open space area.</p>   | High-Medium                                      |
| 22  | <p><b>Events</b></p> <p>Develop Edward River Oval for public community events. Establish what infrastructure is required for events and install over time.</p>  | Medium   |
| 23  | <p><b>Aquatic Centre and Sports Facility</b></p> <p>Planning for a new facility should begin in the long term (10+ years) to replace the two existing facilities when they are nearing the end of their estimated 20-year asset life or when they are not adequate for the activity. When planning is complete Council will be in a better position to seek grant funding.</p>  | Low  |



# Villages

| No. | Recommendation  | Priority  |
|-----|---|---|
| 24  | <b>Village Reserve Committees</b><br>Clarify with Village Reserve Committees the roles and responsibilities of Council and the Committees.  | High  |
| 25  | <b>Village Masterplans</b><br>Establish consultative committees in each Village to update local village master plans and implement them over time.  | Low   |
| 26  | <b>Boooroorban Hall</b><br>Develop a design for the entrance to the Boooroorban Hall to beautify the space and create an outdoor event area. The design process is to involve the local community who have a clear idea of how it should be developed.  | High  |
| 27  | <b>Blighty Recreation Reserve</b><br>Develop a design for a formalised car park at the Blighty Recreation Reserve and implement when funds allow.   | Design =<br>Medium<br>Imp'tation =<br>Low   |
| 28  | <b>Conargo Swimming Area</b><br>Work with the local community to implement modest improvements to the Conargo Swimming Area.  | Medium  |
| 29  | <b>Mayrung Village Entrance Statements</b><br>Consider the need for a village entrance statement for Mayrung and develop a design with the community if they are to be installed.   | Medium  |
| 30  | <b>Mayrung Village Memorial Gates</b><br>Work with the local community to develop a design for the memorial gates and implement with significant community input.   | High/<br>Medium   |
| 31  | <b>Pretty Pine Recreation Reserve</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» upgrade the tennis courts with a synthetic surface and LED lights</li> <li>» refurbish the hall (interior)</li> <li>» add shutters to the barbecue shelter</li> <li>» build a walkway from the hall to the barbecue shelter</li> <li>» beautify the Reserve entrance.</li> </ul> | Upgrading the tennis courts (Medium). All others medium/low unless funding is available |
| 32  | <b>Wanganella Tennis Courts</b><br>Light the tennis courts if demand is proven and beautify the adjacent Bernard Keys Park.   | Low   |
| 33  | <b>Wanganella Streetscape</b><br>Beautify the road verge between the Community Hall and the Cobb Highway.   | Medium/<br>Low  |