



**MORNINGTON  
PENINSULA**  
*Shire*

**ADDENDUM  
ATTACHMENTS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2025**

**6:30PM**

**MUNICIPAL OFFICES  
BESGROVE STREET, ROSEBUD**

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# OUR OPEN SPACES

Mornington Peninsula Shire  
Open Space Strategy 2025 - 2040

FINAL REPORT NOVEMBER 2025



MORNINGTON  
PENINSULA  
*Shire*

Mornington Peninsula Open Space Strategy prepared for:  
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council  
By Project Consultants: Emerge Associates

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

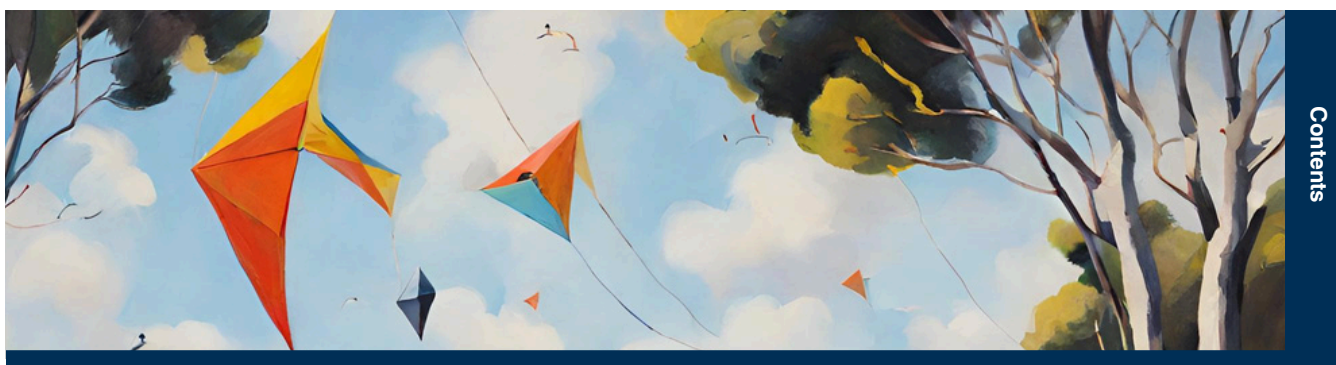
A special thank you to the community, key stakeholders and Council officers for their commitment and valuable contributions to the Open Space Strategy development process. This Strategy has an important unified and local focus, and has been driven by evidence of need and stakeholder insights.

**DISCLAIMER:**

This report has been prepared in good faith and in conjunction with Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. The information contained in this document has been provided and relied upon from the existing strategy and policy documentation, stakeholder and community consultation and anecdotal evidence, data, research and contributions from existing Mornington Peninsula Shire Council related plans and strategies. Information contained in the Report is current as at the relevant dates stated in the Report and may not reflect any event or circumstances which occur after the stated date. The report along with any illustrative plans, perspectives and imagery contained within are indicative impressions to illustrate conceptual ideas only and all recommendations will be subject to further planning, consultation, detailed design, cost planning and approvals. The document is solely for the use of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and is not intended to, and should not be used or relied upon, by anyone else. Neither Emerge Associates nor its servants, consultants, agents or staff accept any duty of care or shall be responsible in any way whatsoever to any person in respect to the report, including errors or omission therein. The document may only be used for the purposes for which it was commissioned and in accordance with the Terms of Engagement for the commission. Unauthorised use of this document in any form whatsoever is prohibited.



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**Explainer Note: Variance Between Population Figures in Reports**  
Population and dwelling figures used in this strategy may differ from those presented in the Open Space Contributions Report, May 2025. This is due to the use of different data sources and forecasting methodologies, each selected for its specific purpose.

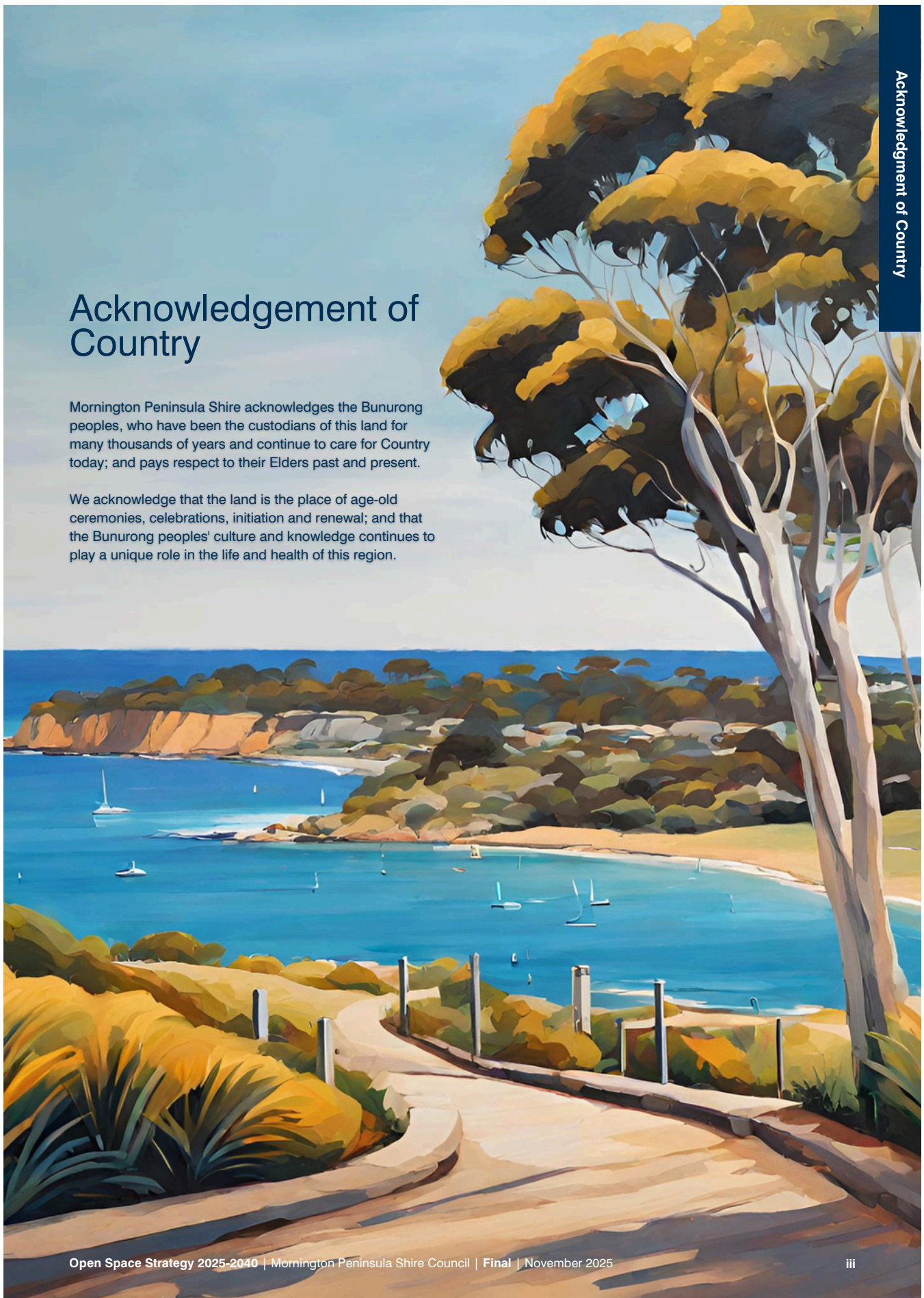
[Open Space Contributions Report \(SGS Economics and Planning\)](#).  
This report uses VIF23 (2026) projections and dwelling estimates based on ultimate build-out capacity. The population forecast considers the theoretical maximum number of people that could be accommodated in the Shire if all zoned residential land is developed to its full capacity. This approach supports long-term infrastructure planning and helps determine the upper limits of developer contribution requirements.

[Open Space Strategy, 2025 \(This Document\)](#).  
This Strategy uses population forecasts provided by ID Consulting, which are based on realistic, staged growth projections informed by current planning policy

## Acknowledgement of Country

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Bunurong peoples, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years and continue to care for Country today; and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge that the land is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation and renewal; and that the Bunurong peoples' culture and knowledge continues to play a unique role in the life and health of this region.





Shared Responsibility

## Shared Responsibility

The Open Space Strategy acknowledges the shared responsibility for caring for the land, which is a collective effort by Mornington Peninsula Shire, and other agencies such as Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Bunurong peoples and local community groups.

This strategy seeks to honor this responsibility, ensuring the land's future is managed with respect to both its natural heritage and the cultural significance it holds.



## Executive Summary

### Our Open Spaces: Mornington Peninsula Open Space Strategy 2025–2040

The Mornington Peninsula is a region defined by its natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and vibrant communities. It offers a unique blend of coastal, rural, and urban landscapes that provide essential social, recreational, ecological, and cultural benefits to residents and visitors alike.

With over 70% of the Mornington Peninsula designated as 'green wedge' land and more than 3,500 hectares of Council-managed open space, the Shire is well-endowed with natural assets. However, population growth, shifting demographics, climate pressures, and evolving community needs mean that open space planning must be more adaptive, inclusive, and visionary than ever before.

The Mornington Peninsula Open Space Strategy 2025–2040 ("Our Open Spaces") provides a clear and actionable roadmap to guide the planning, provision, management, and enhancement of open space over the next 15 years. It is underpinned by extensive evidence, best-practice planning principles, and a deep understanding of community values and expectations.

This Executive Summary presents the core elements of the Strategy; its purpose and scope, the current state of open space, key challenges and opportunities, the engagement approach, a shared vision and guiding principles, the strategic directions, and the anticipated long-term impact.

The visual representation of the vision and strategic framework complements the text and is provided in the pages that follow.

### Purpose and Scope

The Strategy aims to ensure that Mornington Peninsula's open space network continues to support health and wellbeing, biodiversity, community connectedness, cultural recognition, economic vitality, and climate resilience.

It provides a strategic framework for the development, renewal, and management of open space assets across the Shire, aligned with the Council Plan, Community Vision, the Planning Scheme, and other related strategic documents.

It responds to a clear mandate to protect, optimise, and grow the open space network in a way that meets the diverse and changing needs of the community.

Importantly, it seeks to embed fairness, access, sustainability, and cultural inclusion at the heart of future decisions.

### Engaging Our Community

The Strategy was built on a comprehensive engagement processes. A multi-phased approach ensured both breadth and depth of input:

- Phase 1 focused on broad consultation to understand current usage, barriers to access, values, and aspirations.
- Phase 2 used deliberative engagement to explore complex trade-offs, including access standards, equity, service and experience priorities.
- Phase 3 shared the draft reports for public exhibition and further refinement before adoption.

Engagement activities included surveys, stakeholder interviews, workshops, pop-up sessions, a deliberative panel, a youth AI design competition, schools and targeted outreach to underrepresented groups.

This community-led foundation ensures that the Strategy reflects real needs, fosters shared responsibility, and is supported by those it seeks to serve.

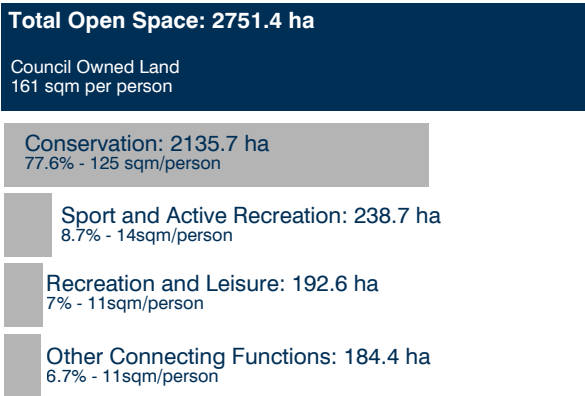


### Overview of Open Space Provision

The Mornington Peninsula has a relatively high proportion of open space compared to many Victorian municipalities, but access and quality vary significantly across the Shire. Currently, Council owns or manages approximately 2,751.4 hectares of public open space, with an additional 4,753 hectares of non-Council-managed open space contributing to the network.

The Peninsula's open spaces range from national and state parks, coastal reserves, and bushland to sportsgrounds, playgrounds, and local neighbourhood parks.

Open space on the Peninsula serves four core functions:



### Non Council Managed Open Space: 4753 ha

It is important to note that while conservation areas are protected areas that enhance biodiversity and ecological processes, these areas still offer recreation and leisure opportunities such as walking trails, some play spaces, bird watching, and other pursuits.

While quantity is a strength, issues of uneven distribution, limited accessibility, inconsistent amenity, ageing infrastructure, and funding constraints persist.

The Strategy establishes the foundations for addressing these gaps and ensuring a more equitable, connected, and high-quality open space network.

### Key Challenges and Opportunities

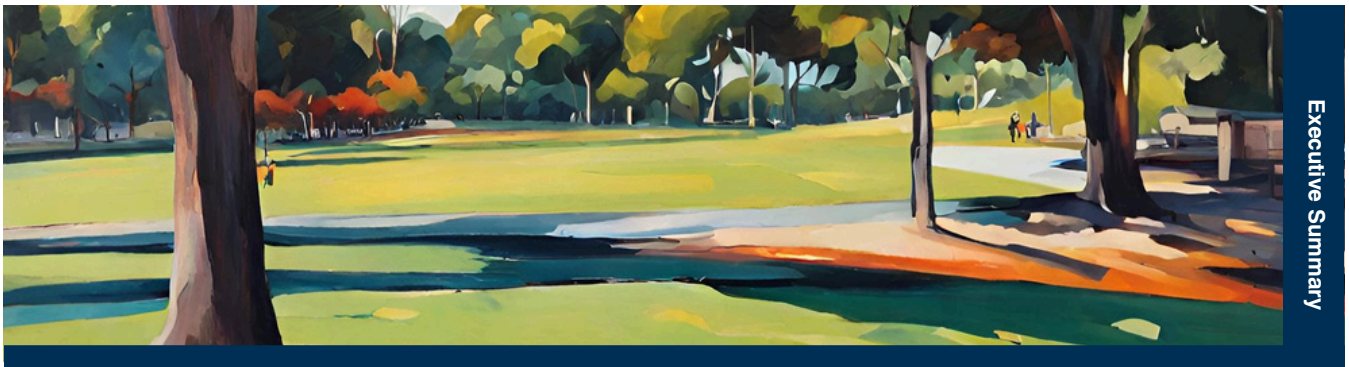
The Strategy is informed by a detailed analysis of social, environmental, economic, and planning trends and influences.

A summary of key challenges include:

- Population growth and urban expansion placing pressure on existing parks and requiring new spaces in growth areas.
- Demographic change, particularly an ageing population and increasing cultural diversity, requiring more inclusive, accessible, and universally designed spaces.
- Climate change impacts such as coastal erosion, storm surge, sea level rise, heat stress and biodiversity and ecosystem loss.
- Increased visitation and tourism, especially in coastal areas during peak periods.
- Funding and infrastructure renewal constraints, with many spaces requiring upgrades and masterplans yet to be implemented.
- Contested space and competing user needs, particularly for dog areas, sports, events, connection to nature, and quiet recreation.

Despite these challenges, the Shire also has significant opportunities:

- A large existing land base and green wedge protection.
- A strong local identity and community pride in place.
- An engaged and values-driven community.
- Potential for multifunctional, climate-resilient, and culturally rich spaces.
- Partnerships with Traditional Owners, community groups, and other public land management agencies.
- Maturing smart technology and data to support planning and performance monitoring.



**Our Shared Vision**

Our open spaces connect people to nature, culture, and each other. They are inclusive, welcoming, sustainable, and reflect the unique character of the Mornington Peninsula.

This vision acknowledges open space as essential community infrastructure that enhances livability, nurtures biodiversity, and supports physical, mental, and social wellbeing. It seeks to protect what makes the Mornington Peninsula special while preparing for a dynamic and more resilient future.

This vision, shaped by community engagement, has evolved alongside the development of the strategy to reflect the community’s values, aspirations, and long-term goals for open space on the Mornington Peninsula.

**Guiding Principles and Values**

Developed with the community, six principles underpin the Strategy and will shape decision-making. They help align collective goals, prioritise actions, ensure consistency, reflect values, and guide strategic outcomes.

The guiding principles are essential for guiding decisions and provide a framework for decision-making and direction for planning, design, and management of open space, ensuring sustainability, promoting equity and inclusiveness, and achieving long-term community and environmental benefits. They help create a clear, consistent approach to planning and managing open spaces that aligns with both local needs and broader shire objectives.

A core value that transcends the Strategy is the commitment to focus on 'People First and First People', meaning to be user centric and engaging of all people, working with community and Traditional Owners to care for country.

**The following Plan on a Page provides a clear overview of the strategic framework that forms the foundation of the Open Space Strategy. These principles and directions are underpinned by a robust action plan, detailed provision standards, and precinct-specific profiles that ensure tailored responses for each part of the Shire.**

**“ A connected, vibrant and thriving open space network that celebrates nature, culture, and community.**

Accessible and sustainable, these spaces will foster recreation, connection, and environmental stewardship, ensuring future generations experience the beauty and heritage that define our region.

”

**Strategic Directions and Priorities**

The Strategy is structured around three overarching strategic directions, each supported by objectives and targeted actions:

**Direction 1: Protect** our inherited open space legacy.

- Safeguard environmentally and culturally significant landscapes.
- Strengthen biodiversity corridors and ecological health.
- Manage risks from climate change and intensive use.

**Direction 2: Grow** the open space network.

- Address gaps in access and equity, especially in growth and under-serviced areas.
- Plan for future population needs.
- Secure new open space through acquisition, partnerships, and innovative funding models.

**Direction 3: Optimise** the open space network.

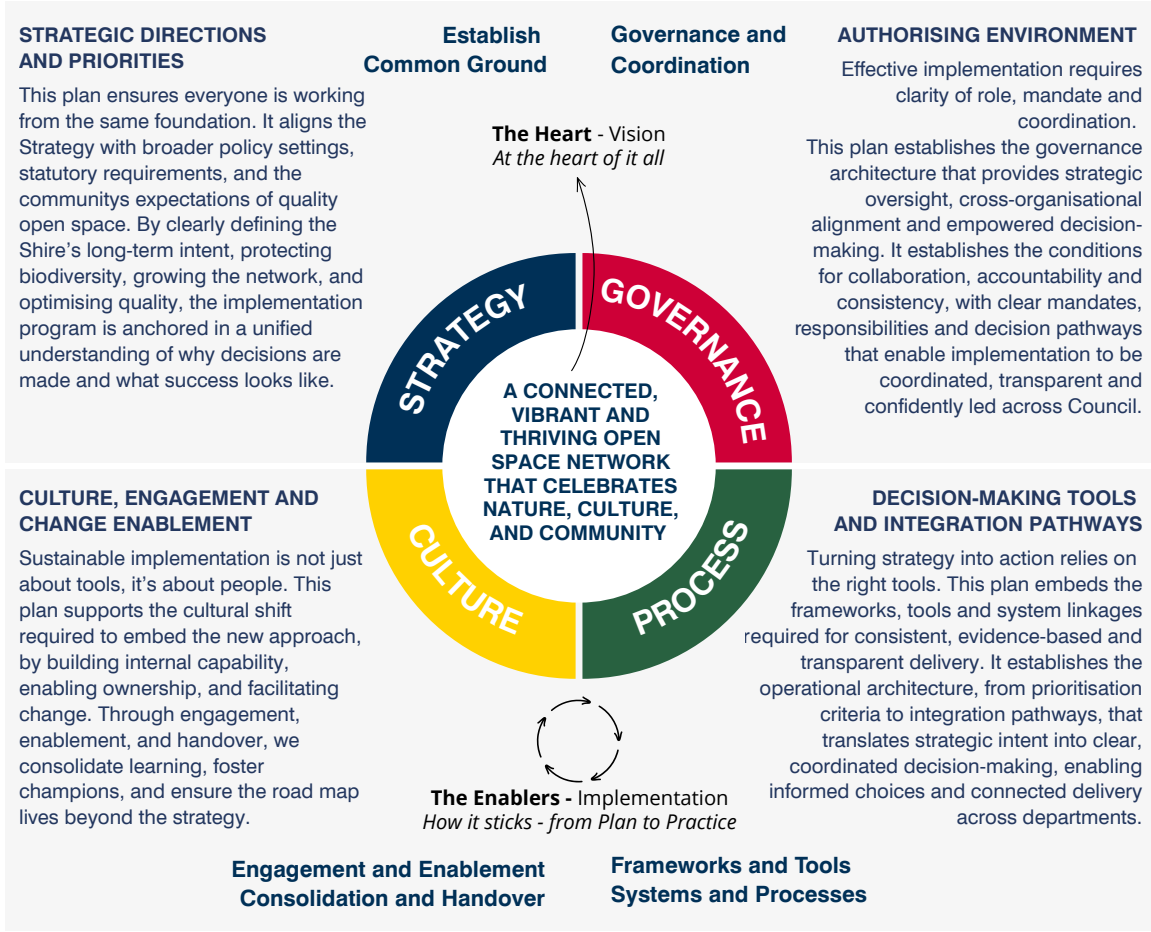
- Improve the functionality, safety, and performance of existing open spaces.
- Promote inclusive and multi-use design.
- Invest in maintenance, renewal, and amenity upgrades.

# From Plan to Practice

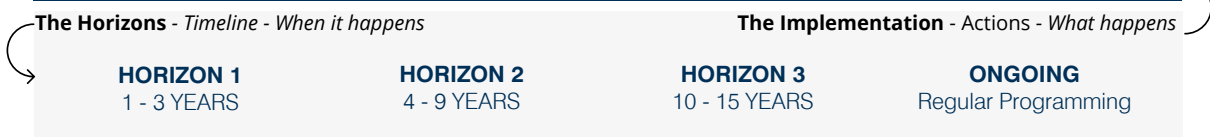


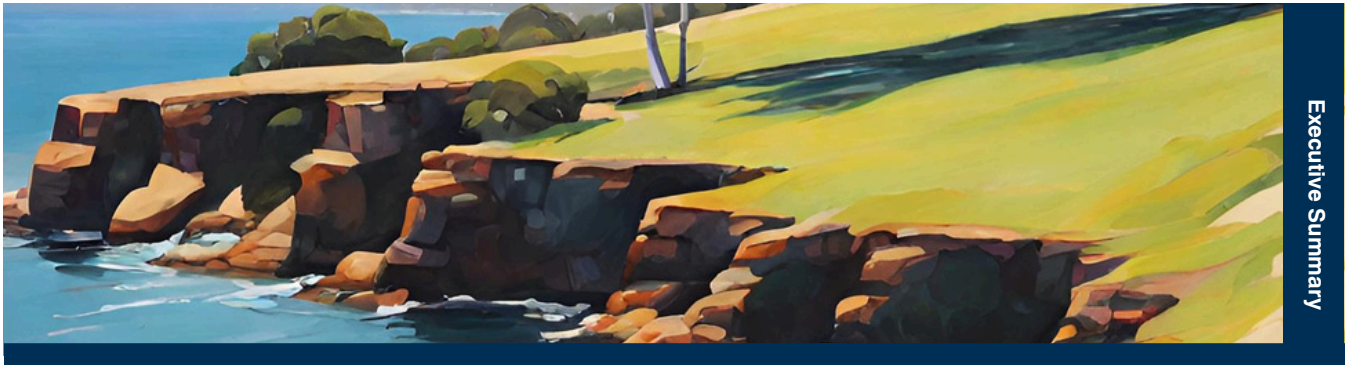
## PEOPLE FIRST AND FIRST PEOPLE

Be user centric and engaging of all people



## PRIORITISED ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN





**VISION**

**A connected, vibrant and thriving open space network that celebrates nature, culture, and community.**

Accessible and sustainable, these spaces will foster recreation, connection, and environmental stewardship, ensuring future generations experience the beauty and heritage that define our region.

DIRECTION	PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>PEOPLE FIRST PEOPLE</b></p>	<p><b>CORE VALUE</b> Be user centric and engaging of all people</p>	<p><b>Principle 1: Community Involvement</b> Involve residents and stakeholders in planning processes and maintain transparent communication to reflect collective goals. Partner and collaborate with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners, community, and stakeholders to co-design and manage open space.</p>
		<p><b>Principle 2: Traditional Owner and Cultural Values</b> Ensure open spaces support reconciliation. Recognise Bunurong peoples' ongoing connection to Country by protecting cultural sites, reflect and respect the area's Traditional Owner cultural and environmental heritage, while incorporating Traditional Owner's knowledge into the management and preservation of natural spaces.</p>
<p><b>PROTECT</b></p>	<p>Protect our inherited open space legacy</p>	<p><b>Principle 3: Climate Resilience and Readiness</b> Focus on climate adaptation and risk management to ensure the long-term sustainability of our open spaces, coastlines, and ecosystems. Prioritise actions that reduce climate vulnerability and prepare communities for increasing environmental hazards.</p>
		<p><b>Principle 4: Environmental Leadership</b> Enhance environmental outcomes by preserving natural areas, growing biodiversity, using sustainable and circular materials, and incorporating climate-adaptive features. Design cool, green spaces with large canopy trees and integrate green and water-sensitive infrastructure to reduce environmental impacts.</p>
<p><b>GROW</b></p>	<p>Grow the open space network</p>	<p><b>Principle 5: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing</b> Ensure open spaces enhance physical and mental health by promoting active lifestyles, reducing stress, and fostering social connections. Plan for open space in line with urban growth by identifying, expanding, and enhancing land, parks, trails, and waterway corridors. Ensure vibrant, walkable, and connected communities through accessible and adaptable spaces.</p>
		<p><b>Principle 6: Equity, Inclusivity and Adaptability</b> Ensure all residents have equitable access to open spaces, with inclusive designs that accommodate people of all ages, genders, abilities, economic status, and cultural backgrounds. Spaces that are multifunctional and adaptable, ensuring they meet the diverse needs of the community.</p>
<p><b>OPTIMISE</b></p>	<p>Optimise the open space network</p>	





## 1.1 Purpose

The Mornington Peninsula Open Space Strategy is a 15-year plan that helps the Council make informed decisions on the use, development, management, and maintenance of open spaces, including parks and playgrounds.

This Open Space Strategy provides a clear framework for developing a thriving and interconnected network of open spaces that meets the diverse needs of a growing and evolving community.

It seeks to protect and enhance the Peninsula's valuable natural spaces, while addressing challenges such as climate change, population growth, urban expansion, shifting recreational needs, greater cultural inclusion, vegetation loss, and increasing tourism.

Aligned with the Community Vision and Council Plan, it also supports related strategies including the Sports Capacity Plan and the Urban Forest Strategy and will shape the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme.

This strategy guides the planning, design, and management of both existing and future open spaces over the next 15 years, until 2040.

### Intended Impact and Legacy

The Open Space Strategy is a long-term investment in the health, identity, and resilience of the Mornington Peninsula. The document establishes a comprehensive approach to open space planning and development, ensuring alignment with community values while respecting regulatory and budgetary constraints.

Its implementation will:

- Improve equity of access to high-quality open space across all precincts
- Guide sustainable infrastructure delivery and renewal
- Enhance canopy cover, climate resilience, and biodiversity
- Deliver spaces that reflect Traditional Owner values, community diversity and cultural heritage
- Support stronger partnerships and more transparent decision-making, and
- Optimise open space contributions and investment.

Over time, the Strategy will enable the Shire to better meet the needs of a growing and changing community, while preserving the natural and cultural assets that define the Mornington Peninsula.

Open Space Strategy 2025-2040 | Mornington Peninsula Shire Council | Final | November 2025

08

## 1.2 Development Process

The comprehensive Mornington Peninsula Open Space Strategy has been developed over a two-year period, commencing in December 2023. Each phase of the process has built upon the last, drawing on community insights, aspirations, and ideas, while exploring and testing opportunities to enhance and expand open space across the region.

<b>DEC 2023</b>	<b>Discussion Paper</b> Highlights the current challenges that are likely to influence open space
<b>JAN 24 - FEB 24</b>	<b>Phase 1 Engagement</b> Understand needs, priorities, uses, and values
<b>MAR 2024</b>	<b>Open Space Use and Trends Report</b> Overview of open space on the Peninsula and options to address challenges
<b>MAY 24 - SEP 24</b>	<b>Phase 2 Engagement</b> Exploring the key issues with the deliberative panel
<b>JUN 24 - DEC 24</b>	<b>Open Space Planning Framework</b> Develop the open space planning framework to guide open space planning, provision and development
<b>DEC 24 - JUN 25</b>	<b>Draft Strategy</b> Incorporate all research, engagement and frameworks into a draft strategy
<b>AUG 25</b>	<b>Phase 3 - Engagement</b> Public Exhibition
<b>NOV 25 - DEC 25</b>	<b>Final Open Space Strategy</b>



## 1.3 Strategy Components and Context

### State Government Guidance

Plan for Victoria 2025	Plan Melbourne 2017-2050	Practice Note 70 (under review)	Open Space for Everyone 2021
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### Council Drivers

Community Vision	Council Plan and Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2025 - 2029	Asset Plan 2025/26 - 2035/36	Financial Plan 2022 - 2032	Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
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### Open Space Strategy



### Council Delivery

Open Space Strategy Implementation Plan	Open Space Framework and Standards	Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme	Open Space Contributions Report
Open Space Design Guidelines Action 1.5	Open Space Master Plans	Structure Plans	Open Space Contributions Policy Action 2.4
Annual Plan and Budget	Maintenance Plan and Contracts	Public Amenity and Play Space Strategy	Contributions Plan



## Open Space Strategy Components

### Part 1: Setting The Scene

This section provides an overview that sets the scene and context for the Open Space Strategy 2025 - 2040. It covers the purpose, development process, components and context, definitions, roles and responsibilities and planning precincts.

### Part 2: Our Open Spaces

This section provides an overview of the Shire-wide open space network, its provision, performance and factors that are expected to impact the future needs, provision, design, and management of open space across the municipality.

### Part 3: Informing Our Planning

This section summarises Mornington Peninsula Shire key issues, opportunities, trends and influences identified through plans, strategies, and consultation findings, which inform the strategy, framework, directions and action plans.

### Part 4: Our Planning Framework

This section sets the planning framework for open space provision, covering key targets, classifications, hierarchy and local standards for provision, experience and development. It examines function types, landscape character, access levels, and land use types, and provides guidelines for the creation of new open spaces.

### Part 5: Our Vision and Directions

This section outlines the key directions in response to open space needs, challenges and opportunities, focusing on protecting its inherited legacy, optimising the existing network, and growing it to meet future needs.

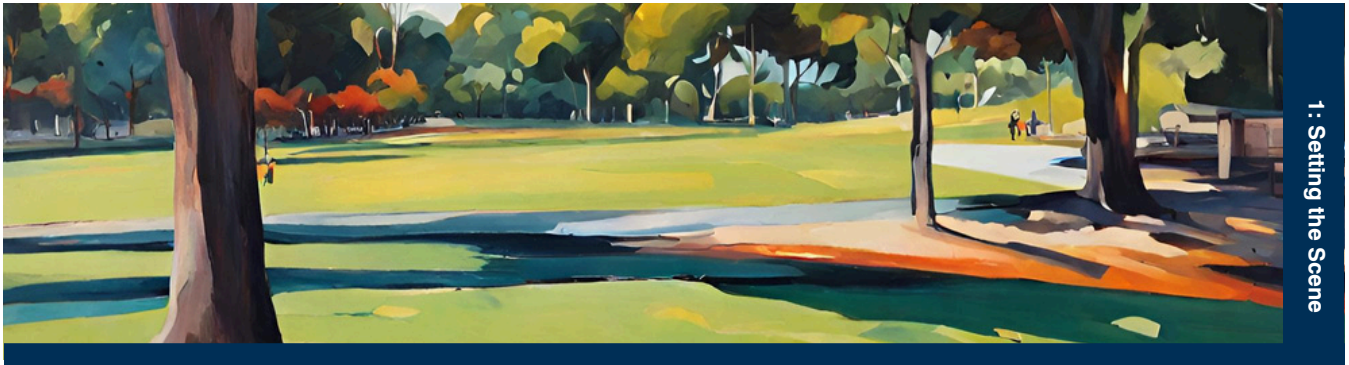
Shared Vision		
<p><b>Core Value: People First + First People</b>  <i>Design inclusive, community-driven open spaces that respect cultural and environmental heritage.</i></p>		
Strategic Directions		
<p><b>Direction 1:</b> Protect</p>	<p><b>Direction 2:</b> Grow</p>	<p><b>Direction 3:</b> Optimise</p>

### Part 6: Implementation and Action Plan

This section outlines the actions and tasks associated with addressing the collective priorities to implement the strategy.

### Part 7: Our Precinct Profiles

This section provides precinct profiles, including open space provision, maps and a table of open space per area. It highlights key challenges and actions for each precinct to address local needs and enhance open space outcomes.



## 1.4 What is Open Space?

Open space can be defined in various ways, and understanding this definition helps frame the scope of this strategy. By clarifying what constitutes open space, we ensure a focused approach to managing and enhancing these areas for the benefit of the community and the environment.

We have used the industry standard definition below and adapted them to suit Mornington Peninsula.

### Mornington Peninsula Definition of Open Space

For this Strategy, "open space" refers to publicly owned land designated or potentially designated for:

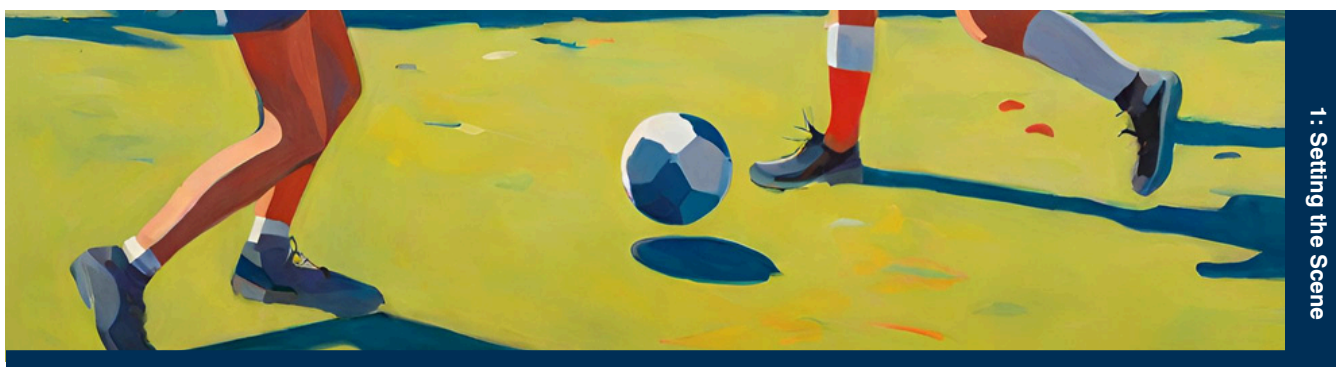
- Formal and informal sport and recreation
- Preservation of natural environments
- Provision of green space
- Urban stormwater management

This includes:

- Land zoned as Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
- Land zoned as Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
- Publicly owned land used as open space, even if not zoned PPRZ or PCRZ
- Additionally, schools, cemeteries and golf courses are shown in addition to the open space network to recognise their potential contribution as unofficial open space.

Although this definition applies broadly to all open spaces, regardless of management responsibility, the parcels classified and analysed in the Strategy are limited to those managed directly by the Shire or by committees of management under the Shire's oversight.





## 1.5 Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem, including species diversity, genetic diversity, and ecosystem diversity.
<b>Blue - Green Infrastructure</b>	Includes natural and constructed systems such as vegetation, WSUDs, community gardens and coastal dunes that support clean air and water, climate regulation, biodiversity and recreation.
<b>Blue Infrastructure</b>	Water-related urban infrastructure and ecosystems, including rivers, lakes, and wetlands, that offer multiple ecosystem services.
<b>Circular Approach</b>	Using durable, reusable, and low-impact materials, and designing adaptable spaces that minimise waste and support long-term sustainability.
<b>Community Engagement</b>	The process of involving the community in decision-making regarding the planning, development, and management of open spaces.
<b>Connectivity</b>	The degree to which different open spaces are linked through pathways, trails, or natural corridors, enhancing accessibility and movement.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Tangible physical artifacts and intangible values and attributes of a group or society, including sites, practices, and values that are significant to a community. Specifically in relation to the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in the context of the Mornington Peninsula.
<b>Ecologically Sensitive Areas</b>	Locations with significant environmental values that require special management to protect biodiversity and ecosystem functions.
<b>Hierarchy of Open Space</b>	A classification system that organises open spaces based on their function, size, and level of service, ranging from local parks to regional reserves.
<b>Mornington Peninsula</b>	For the purposes of this document, the term Mornington Peninsula refers to the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Term	Definition
<b>Open Space, Active</b>	Areas designed for active recreational activities, including sports fields, playgrounds, and courts.
<b>Open Space, Passive</b>	Areas intended for relaxation, contemplation, and informal recreation, such as gardens, parks, and natural reserves.
<b>Open Space, Private</b>	Land that is not publicly accessible and is usually owned by private individuals or organisations, such as gardens or private parks.
<b>Open Space, Public</b>	Open space that is owned or managed by public authorities and is available for community use.
<b>Open Space, Restricted</b>	Public land that could provide an open space function that is not freely accessible to the community due to leases, agreements, specialised sporting infrastructure or conservation protection overlays.
<b>Play Space</b>	Areas specifically designed for children's play, often including equipment like swings, slides, and climbing structures
<b>Recreational Needs Assessment</b>	A study to determine the recreational needs of a community, including the types and levels of facilities and open spaces required.
<b>Sustainability</b>	The ability to maintain ecological balance, meet present needs without compromising future generations, manage resources responsibly, and adapt to the current and increasing impacts of climate change.
<b>Universal Design</b>	The design of products, environments, programs, and services to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability or disability.
<b>Urban Heat Island Effect</b>	A phenomenon where urban areas experience higher temperatures than their rural surroundings due to human activities and infrastructure.



## 1.6 Roles and Responsibilities

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) and the community both play key roles in managing and preserving open spaces on the Mornington Peninsula.

While Council oversees most sport and recreation parks, partnerships with organisations like Parks Victoria (PV) and Department Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) manage larger conservation areas. Committees of Management also collaborate with Council to manage some open spaces.

The community contributes through consultations, advisory committees, volunteer programs, and partnerships with local organisations, shaping policies, guiding development, and supporting park maintenance.

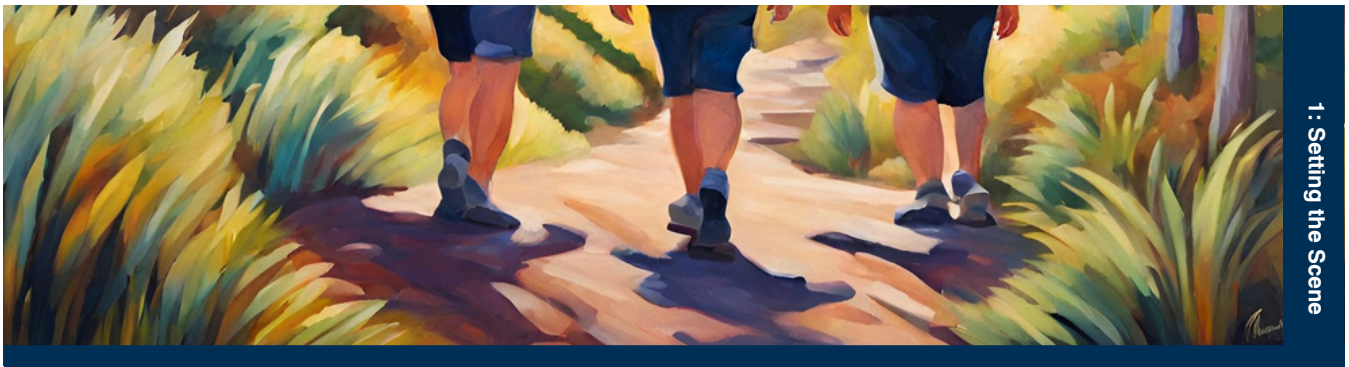
Together, Council and the community work to enhance the quality, accessibility, and sustainability of open spaces for current and future generations.

### Community’s Role in Open Space

Community Role	Description
<b>Advisory Committees</b>	Participation in community advisory committees, such as Friends of Parks, to influence open space policies.
<b>Committees of Management</b>	Collaborating with Council and other stakeholders to manage and oversee open spaces and ensure their effective use and development.
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Engaging in consultations and providing input to identify recreational needs and guide the development of open spaces, including playgrounds and sports fields.
<b>Volunteer Program</b>	Engagement in volunteer initiatives for park maintenance, tree planting, and habitat restoration, fostering a sense of ownership.

### Council’s Role in Open Space

Council’s Role	Description
<b>Advocate and Leader</b>	Advocates for investment in open space and recreation projects, ensuring needs are addressed in state planning and funding. Facilitates issue resolution with stakeholders.
<b>Cultural Heritage Recognition</b>	Collaboration with local Traditional Owner communities to incorporate traditional knowledge and cultural values in planning.
<b>Environmental Steward</b>	Protects and enhances biodiversity in partnership with community groups.
<b>Information Provider</b>	Provides community information about recreation opportunities and open spaces through promotions and communications.
<b>Partner and Planner</b>	Manages and plans open space in collaboration with organisations like Parks Victoria, DEECA, Melbourne Water, along with community groups, schools and clubs to meet community needs.
<b>Regulator</b>	Ensures compliance with relevant policies, laws, and standards in the provision, use, and maintenance of open spaces and recreation facilities.
<b>Service Provider</b>	Designs, constructs, enhances, and maintains Council-owned parks and open spaces, ensuring accessibility. Includes planning, funding, asset provision, management, and renewal.



## 1.7 Planning Precincts

### Planning Precincts

Open space is a defining feature of the Peninsula's landscape, offering vital social gathering points, opportunities for both formal and informal sport and recreation, spaces for nature to thrive, areas for play, scenic trails, tourist attractions, sites of cultural significance, and a diverse range of experiences that support healthy lifestyles.

Dividing the Shire into precincts with shared characteristics is essential for effective planning. This approach enables more targeted and responsive land use strategies, resource distribution, and community provision.

By identifying precincts based on dominant characteristics such as coastal, rural, or urban, we can develop strategies tailored to the unique needs of each area. For instance, coastal precincts, which often experience seasonal population fluctuations due to their appeal as holiday destinations, require different infrastructure and open space planning than residential precincts, where higher numbers of children necessitate more recreational facilities. Likewise, rural precincts focused on agriculture need specific planning to protect open space and sustain farming activity.

This precinct-based approach ensures that each area receives the attention and resources it needs, while still supporting the overall cohesion and vision for the broader region.

It's important to note that these precinct types are generalisations, and land use can vary significantly within each one. For example, although Precinct 5 is not classified as rural, it contains extensive areas of green wedge Zoned land, which should be managed in a manner consistent with rural precincts. Due to these variations, catchment analysis has been limited to urban areas, where land use is more consistent and data is more applicable.

The following page provides an overview of the nine planning precincts that underpin the open space strategy.

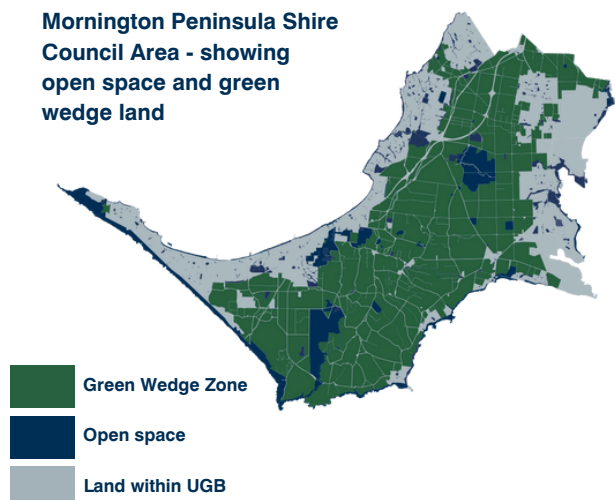
### The Green Wedge

The Green Wedge is one of Victoria's most important assets comprising a significant portion of Mornington Peninsula Shire. Over 70% of the Peninsula is classified as "green wedge" by the State Government codified as the Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) in the Planning Scheme. Land within the green wedge cannot be intensively developed for housing or other urban uses. The zone protects the habitat, biodiversity, landscape quality and rural character of the Peninsula. Land outside the green wedge zone is considered part of Urban Growth Boundary and is generally designated for residential, commercial, and other urban uses.

The Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge Management Plan (2019) guides the future planning of land within the GWZ.

The Mornington Peninsula is also specifically identified as an environmentally sensitive area with significant recreational value under the Victoria Planning Provisions Policy Framework (PPF) (clause 12.05 - Significant Environments and Landscapes) and is designated as one of four 'distinctive areas and landscapes' in the state.

Mornington Peninsula Shire  
Council Area - showing  
open space and green  
wedge land





**Precincts & Township Areas**

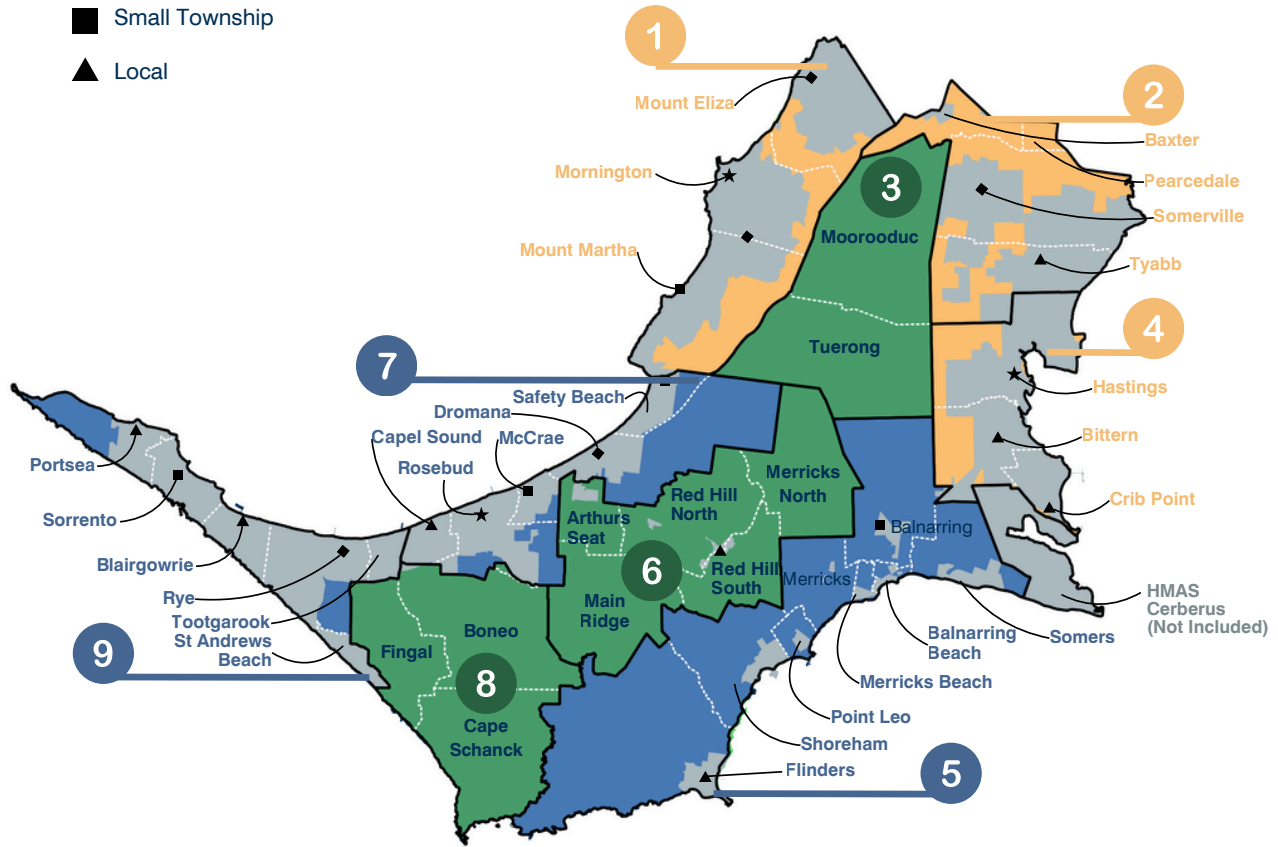
The following map shows the nine precincts across the Shire, delineated by thick black lines. It identifies 40 townships across the precincts, with symbols indicating township size.

Urban areas are overlaid in grey, including land within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) as well as residentially zoned land outside the UGB. This provides a useful visual reference for understanding population distribution in relation to open space provision.

<b>COASTAL PRECINCT</b>	Residential areas with fluctuating seasonal occupancy due to popularity as holiday areas.
<b>RESIDENTIAL PRECINCT</b>	Medium density residential areas with a higher proportion of children.
<b>RURAL PRECINCT</b>	Rural areas with agricultural/rural residential.
<b>URBAN EXTENT</b>	Land within the urban growth boundary or zoned residential but located outside the urban growth boundary.

**Activity Centres**

- ★ Major
- ◆ Large Township
- Small Township
- ▲ Local





PART 2

# Our Open Spaces



## 2.1 Overview

### Mornington Peninsula at a Glance

The Mornington Peninsula, the traditional lands of the Bunurong peoples, is one of Victoria's most popular recreational destinations, attracting tourists and day visitors with its scenic landscapes, beaches, rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and productive rural land.

Its unique coastal and rural setting drives a thriving tourism and recreation economy, offering ample opportunities to connect with nature. The southern beaches and foreshores are among Melbourne's busiest in summer, ideal for camping, walking, swimming, fishing, and boating, while inland vineyards, restaurants, farm-gate activities, and world-class golf courses are major draws.

With almost every town set against a rural landscape, no location is more than a 10-minute drive from a major reserve, bushland, or coastline.

Covering 720 square kilometres and bordered by Frankston and Casey the Peninsula stretches across 192 km of coastline along Port Phillip, Western Port Bays, and Bass Strait. The region is home to 174,000 residents, projected to grow to 227,000 by 2041.

Key towns include Mornington, Rosebud, Rye, Sorrento, Somerville, Hastings, Crib Point, Flinders, and Cape Schanck, and the Peninsula's diverse community includes many residents from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, and other parts of Australia.

As an 'interface Council,' the Mornington Peninsula Shire faces challenges in providing metropolitan-level services, requiring some residents to travel outside the municipality for certain needs.

The region's thriving tourism, agriculture, and coastal industries are complemented by an increasing focus on environmental sustainability and open space preservation. These efforts are essential to support the growing population and rising visitor numbers, with future planning for the open space network addressing the Peninsula's unique geography, population growth, and access to services.





## 2.2 Mornington Peninsula Profile

Open space use in the Mornington Peninsula is shaped by population growth, demographics, and evolving community priorities. The following section outlines key factors influencing future open space needs, design, and management.

### Overview

Situated at the edge of Melbourne’s outer southern suburbs, the Mornington Peninsula Shire is a region of growing communities, rich cultural heritage, and diverse natural landscapes.

The Shire is an urban and rural area, with resort towns, tourist development and some commercial, industrial and port areas. The Shire is one of Melbourne’s major holiday and retirement areas.

The Shire encompasses a total land area of 723 square kilometres, including over 190 kilometres of coastal boundaries. The majority of the population is clustered along the coastline of Port Phillip Bay, between Mount Eliza and Dromana.

Many beach holiday homes are based along the Port Phillip coastline, with the population swelling by up to 30% in the summer months. Much of the rural area is used for farms, orchards and market gardens.

### Location

Mornington Peninsula Shire lies approximately 40 to 80 kilometres south of the Melbourne CBD, positioned on the scenic peninsula between Port Phillip Bay and Western Port. The Shire is bordered by Frankston City and the City of Casey in the North, Western Port in the East, Bass Strait in the South, and Port Phillip Bay in the West.

### Transport

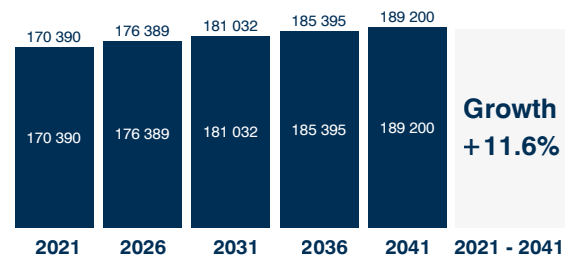
Mornington Peninsula Shire is serviced by major roads, local buses, the Stony Point train line, and ferries. Despite this, 96.5% of residents have access to a vehicle, reflecting the community’s heavy reliance on cars—especially in rural and coastal areas.

\* Sources - Forecast Id, Id Profile and ABS, 2021 Census

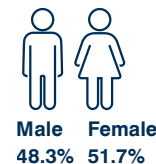
### Population

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has an estimated resident population of 171,450 as of 2024, with a population density of 237 persons per square kilometer.

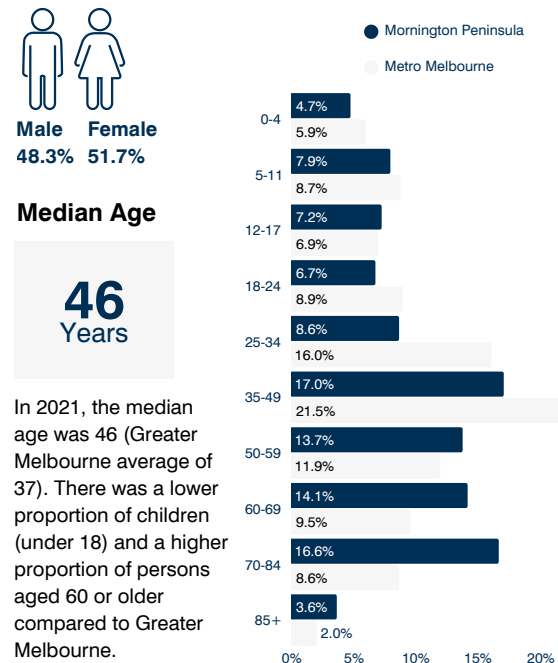
The population is projected to grow by 11.6% in the 20 years between 2021 and 2041, with an additional 19,810 residents expected.



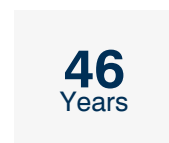
### Gender



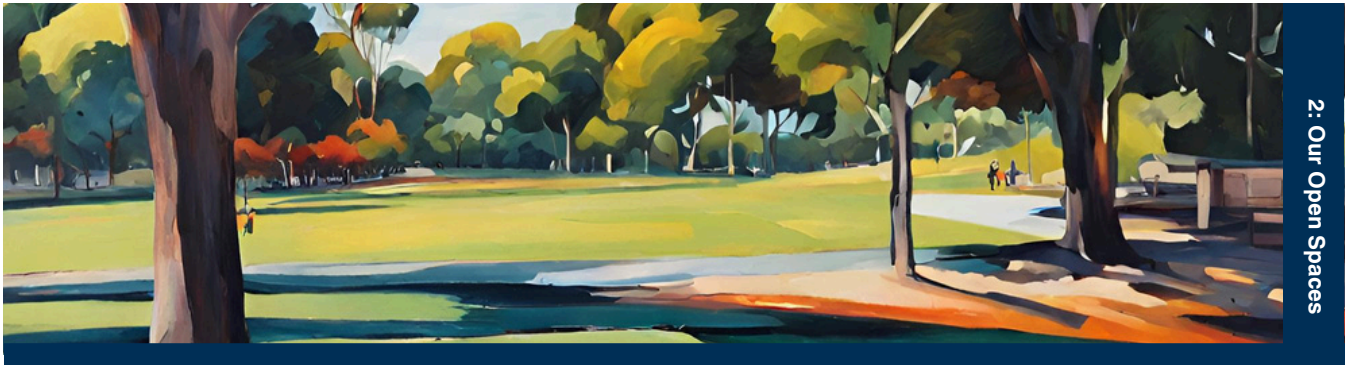
### Age Profile



### Median Age



In 2021, the median age was 46 (Greater Melbourne average of 37). There was a lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older compared to Greater Melbourne.



### Ancestry

<p><b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</b></p> <p><b>0.9%</b></p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (1,720 people in 867 households).</p> <p><b>Traditional Owners</b> The Bunurong peoples are the Traditional Owners of the land that now comprises the Mornington Peninsula Shire. Their deep cultural connection to Country continues to shape the region's identity and values.</p>
<p><b>English Ancestry</b></p> <p><b>45%</b></p>	<p>People with English ancestry, the highest proportion of the population. Compared to 26% in Greater Melbourne.</p>
<p><b>Other Languages</b></p> <p><b>5.4%</b></p>	<p>Speak a language other than English at home, while 89.2% of people only speak English at home (5.4% not stated).</p> <p>Italian, Greek, German and Mandarin are the next most commonly spoken languages, at a rate lower than the Greater Melbourne average.</p>
<p><b>Born Overseas</b></p> <p><b>18%</b></p>	<p>While the Mornington Peninsula remains less diverse than Greater Melbourne (36%), it is experiencing gradual changes in its cultural landscape.</p>

### Households

<p><b>People Per Household</b></p> <p><b>2.4</b></p>	<p>Average number of people per household.</p>
<p><b>Single Parent Households</b></p> <p><b>9.8%</b></p>	<p>Single parent households, consistent with the Greater Melbourne average.</p>
<p><b>Couples Without Children</b></p> <p><b>30%</b></p>	<p>Couples without children is the dominant household structure, which is higher than the Greater Melbourne average (23.5%).</p>
<p><b>Households With Children</b></p> <p><b>36%</b></p>	<p>Households with children is lower than the Greater Melbourne average (43.3%).</p>
<p><b>Households Without a Motor Vehicle</b></p> <p><b>3.5%</b></p>	<p>Households with no access to a motor vehicle which is lower than the Greater Melbourne average (8.2%) suggesting higher rates of car ownership in Mornington Peninsula.</p>



## 2.3 Current Open Space Provision

The Mornington Peninsula’s landscape is defined by extensive open spaces, with over 70% classified as “green wedge” rural land, including national and state parks, reserves, coastal areas, and farmland.

These areas support conservation, recreation, social gathering, sport, tourism, cultural significance, and healthy lifestyle opportunities.

### Landscape



### Open Space Quality

Mornington Peninsula Shire boasts high-quality open spaces, including beautiful natural landscapes, pristine coastlines, and well-maintained urban parks. However, budget constraints have led to minimal infrastructure and lower maintenance activity in some areas.

While coastal and urban parks are generally well-maintained, less-frequented or remote locations often receive limited upkeep, affecting the quality and accessibility of some amenities.

### Open Space Quantity

Mornington Peninsula Shire boasts a higher proportion of open space than many other Victorian municipalities, however gaps in equitable access exist in some areas.

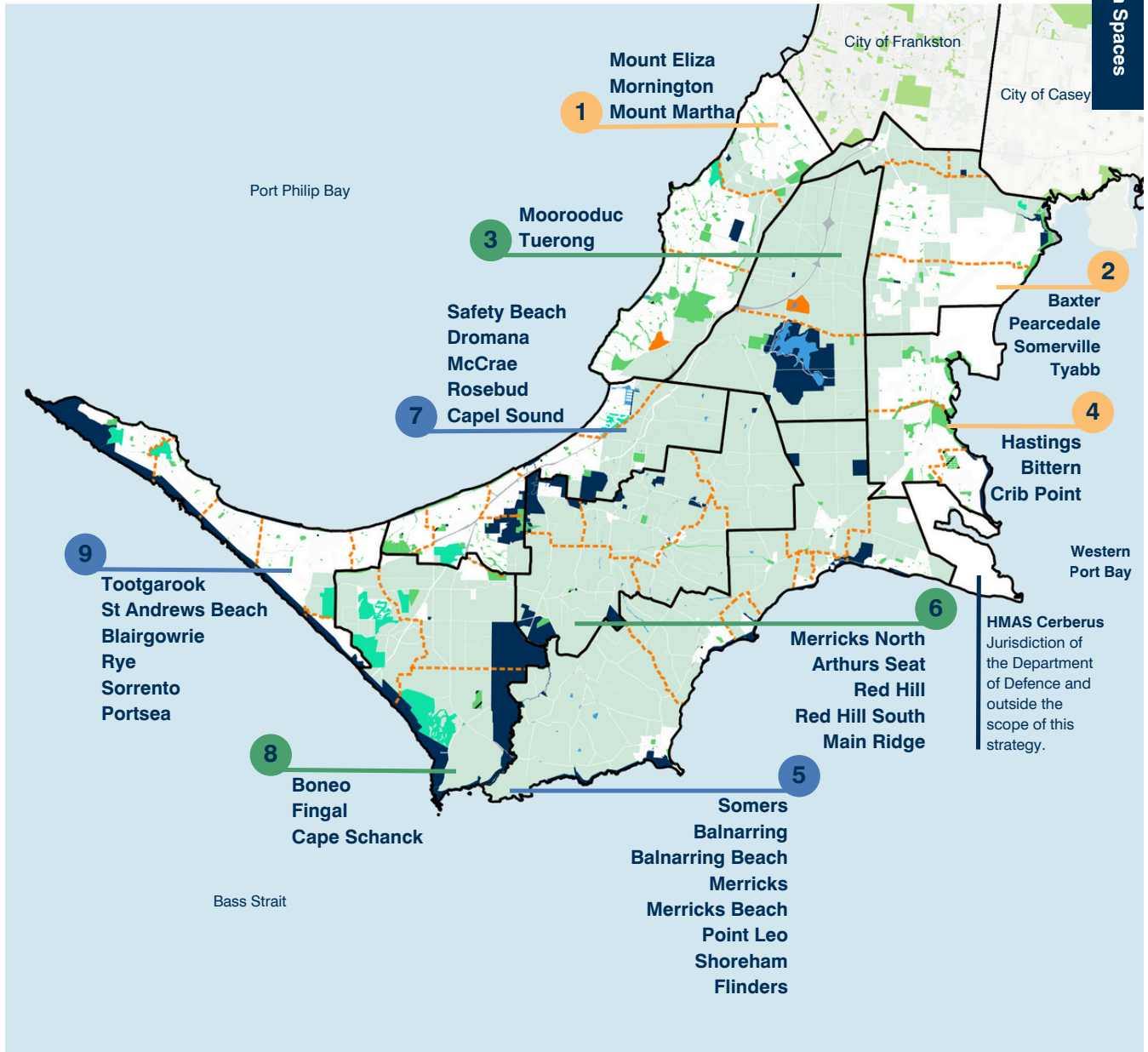
This strategy leverages this strength by creating a framework to prioritise improvements and safeguard these spaces for future generations.

Additionally, 4,753 hectares of open space, though not owned by the Council, also offer valuable recreational opportunities for the community.











# Mornington Peninsula Shire Open Space Map




2: Our Open Spaces

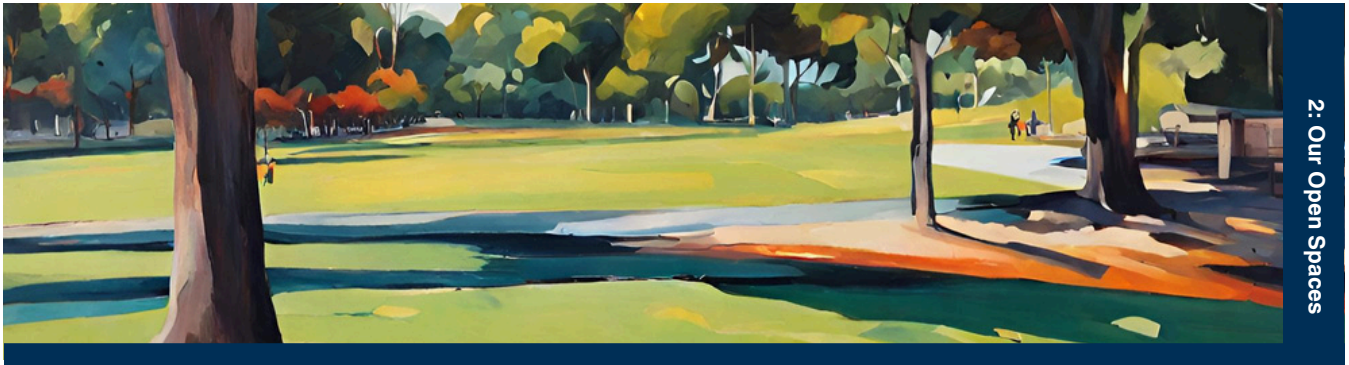


### Legend

 Council Managed Open Space	 Suburb Boundary
 Non Council Managed OS	 Precinct Boundary
 Council Managed Golf Course	 Green Wedge Zone Land
 Private Golf Course	 Water Body (in-land)

### Precinct Type

 Coastal Precinct
 Residential Precinct
 Rural Precinct



## Open Space Functions

The function refers to the programming and intended use of green open spaces, including the expected or potential activities that can take place and the benefits people are likely to gain from using the space. While open spaces provide many functions, for the purposes of this analysis a primary and secondary function is identified for each space. These describe what is primarily happening within each open space parcel, despite how it may be zoned.

The following table identifies the key functions served by open spaces and the proportion of open space dedicated to each function. Only Mornington Peninsula Shire owned and managed open space was classified with a primary and secondary function.

Sections 4.3 and 4.4 provide a complete description of all open space types and functions.

<b>Conservation</b>	Protected areas that enhance biodiversity and ecological processes, featuring remnant native vegetation and wildlife, with managed public access and some restrictions. It is important to note that these areas still offer recreation and leisure opportunities such as walking trails, some play spaces, bird watching, and other pursuits.
<b>77.6%</b>	
<b>Sport</b>	Sites for organised sports and recreation, available for public use when not hosting events, featuring maintained lawns and playing fields.
<b>8.7%</b>	
<b>Recreation</b>	Sites for various outdoor leisure activities, including informal play, relaxation, and social interaction, featuring maintained lawns and irrigation.
<b>7%</b>	
<b>Other Functions</b>	All other types of open space including linking open space parcels.
<b>6.7%</b>	

## Open Space Experiences

The open space network offers a range of experiences and when we asked the community about their values and aspirations for the future open space network, they highlighted a need for better access to specific experiences in urban areas.

Engagement findings showed that while gathering areas and natural spaces nearly met expectations, there was a perceived gap in access to playgrounds, off-leash dog areas, and sports facilities.

The following outlines the level of public access to key open space experiences across the Shire, by percentage of properties.

Access to open space and open space experiences takes into account all accessible open space managed by Mornington and others.





## Infrastructure Provision

When comparing the provision of open space infrastructure to industry benchmarks, the Shire has a good overall supply per capita. However, when aligned with community preferences, many facilities and assets may not be within the desired travel threshold or distance from people's homes.

The Precinct Profiles provide a place-by-place analysis of open space provision (refer to section 7). This analysis identifies some gaps in access and an over supply of infrastructure in one location.



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, please refer to the Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 1 adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).



## Open Space Performance

A Performance Audit was conducted to evaluate the quality and safety of open spaces classified as recreation or sports across the Mornington Peninsula Shire, with the aim of supporting the development of the Open Space Strategy and identifying future priorities for park development.

The assessment covered 200 sites across various precincts, providing a comprehensive overview of open space conditions and informing future planning for the region.

An overall performance score was calculated by combining all criteria scores, enabling comparisons across the Shire, and determining averages by precincts and suburbs.

Note: Open spaces classified as Conservation were not included in this audit. Biodiversity and ecosystem health, as environmental indicators, were outside the scope of this performance audit and therefore not assessed.

For more information:  
Appendix 4 - Performance Assessment Guide  
Precinct Profiles - results for sites in each precinct



The performance assessment guide provides detailed information on how the audit was conducted.

## Scoring Criteria

<b>Criteria 1 - Opportunities</b>	Evaluates the variety of experiences at a site (e.g. playgrounds, sports amenities, natural areas) to identify gaps in recreational opportunities for different interests and needs.
<b>Criteria 2 - Play</b>	Assesses all play opportunities, including natural (climbing trees), social (group spaces), and developmental play (equipment for new skills), with options for all ages.
<b>Criteria 3 - Landscape Quality</b>	Evaluates the park's condition, including trees, vegetation, grass, and design elements (e.g. paths, seating, shade) to ensure functionality and appropriateness for its service level.
<b>Criteria 4 - Unique Qualities</b>	Identifies special features (e.g. significant trees, public art, cultural elements) that contribute to the park's uniqueness and sense of place.
<b>Criteria 5 - Design</b>	Assesses the park's design for functionality and suitability, considering furniture, paths, parking, and shade, ensuring it aligns with its intended usage.
<b>Criteria 6 - Accessibility</b>	Evaluates the accessibility of pathways, parking, and facilities for people with impaired mobility, ensuring the site is inclusive for all users.
<b>Criteria 7 - Comfort and Safety</b>	Evaluates the park's safety and comfort, ensuring clear sightlines, sheltered seating, and safe separation from hazards like busy roads.

Note on Scoring and Calculations:  
Scores are based on a 5-point scale and converted to percentages for consistency and ease of comparison. Overall scores are calculated by summing individual ratings (each out of 5), dividing by the maximum possible total (e.g. 25), and expressing the result as a percentage.



Key Findings

The overall Park Performance score for Mornington Peninsula Shire was 62%, with varying results across different precincts.

Some areas had higher ratings, while others faced challenges due to issues like undeveloped spaces, poor placement of park elements, and/or lack of essential features. These scores show that on average park performance is adequate, however improvements can be focused in the following areas:

- Undeveloped or poorly maintained areas were the main cause for lower ratings, particularly in design and landscape quality.
- Poor sight lines and a lack of pathways were significant barriers to safety and accessibility in several parks.
- Play elements were lacking in many sites, contributing to lower scores. Notable high-scoring playgrounds included Olivia Way Recreational Park, Rosebud Foreshore Playground, Eco Park, and Marshall Street Reserve.

Shire Average

<b>62%</b> Overall Performance Score (Highest Score 74%)	<b>54%</b> Of Sites have Unique Qualities	<b>64%</b> Comfort (Highest Score 73%)
<b>58%</b> Design (Highest Score 70%)	<b>69%</b> Landscape Quality (Highest Score 85%)	<b>56%</b> Accessibility (Highest Score 70%)
<b>56%</b> Play (Highest Score 71%)	Highest Performing Precinct: <b>6</b>	Biggest Challenge: <b>Undeveloped open space parcels</b>



2: Our Open Spaces

Highest Performing Park Features

Highest-performing parks in the Mornington Peninsula strike a balance between active and passive spaces, fostering recreation, leisure, relaxation, and strong community engagement. These parks include:

**New and Developer-Built Parks**

Accessible, inviting play areas with soft-fall surfaces, large sites for sports and recreation.

**Mixed-Use and Community Parks**

Includes parking, community centres, and older playgrounds, well-maintained with a community feel.

**Playground-Focused Parks**

New play spaces, good accessibility, diverse play options, and open spaces, but may lack shade.

**Sport-Specific Parks**

Sports fields, tennis courts, and small playgrounds, well-maintained but needing regular upkeep.

**Mature, Well-Cared-for Parks**

Older parks with trees, play areas, and shaded spaces, often with heritage elements.

**Larger Parks with Scenic Features**

Waterfront or large grassy areas, themed playgrounds, and walking paths, with potential for improvement.

**Local Parks with Character**

Smaller parks with climbing trees, artwork, and informal play, fostering community ownership.

The adjacent images provide examples of the highest and lowest performing parks across the Shire.

The Strategy highlights the key qualities of high-performing parks to inform the development of actions and priorities.

HIGHEST SCORING PARKS



Rosebud Foreshore Playground



Olivia Way Recreation Park, Hastings

LOWEST SCORING PARKS



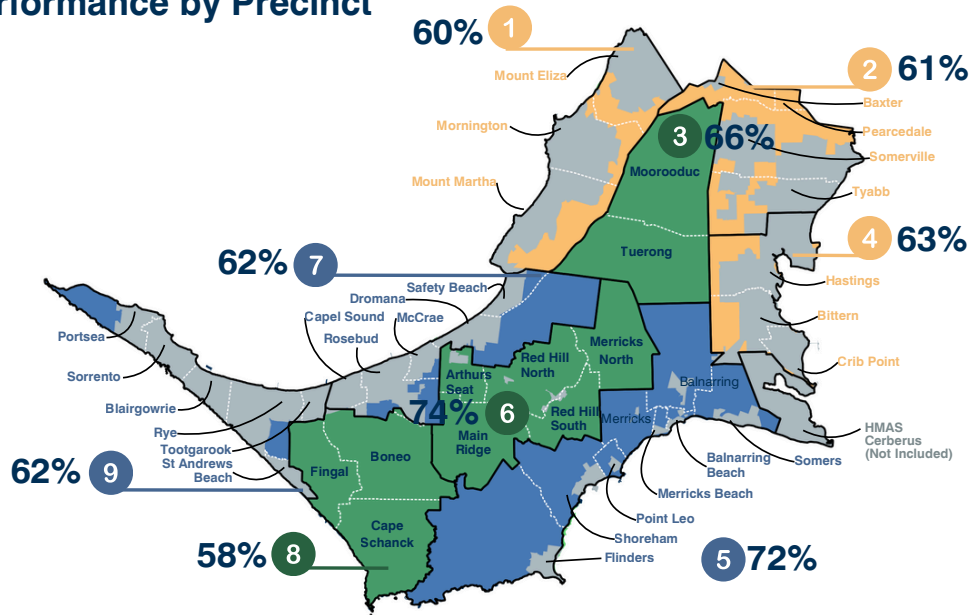
Jonathon Court Reserve, Mornington



Brasser Avenue Bushland Reserve, Dromana



### Park Performance by Precinct



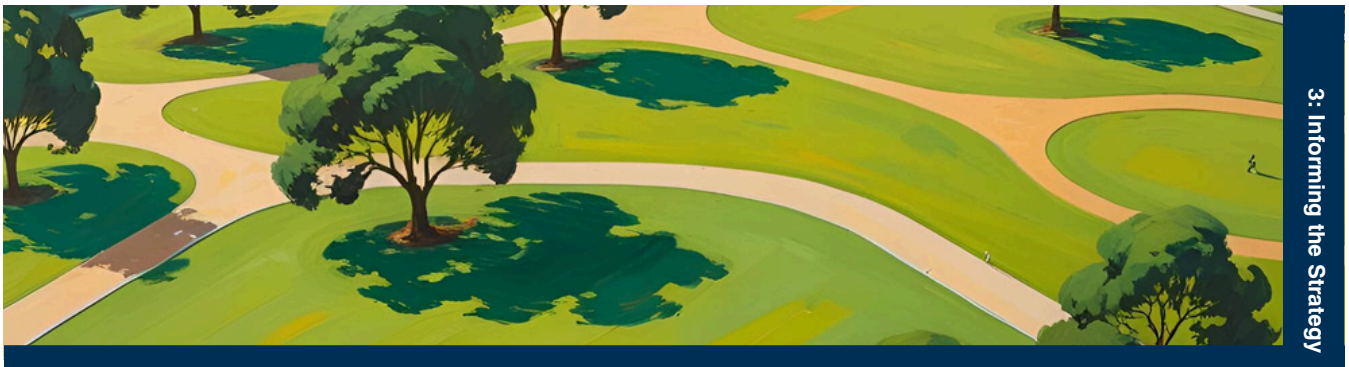
Precinct	Overall Performance Score	Comfort Score	Play Score	Landscape Quality Score	Design Score	Accessibility Score	Unique Qualities*
1	60%	63%	54%	64%	57%	55%	58%
2	61%	60%	60%	67%	57%	52%	33%
3	66%	70%	60%	70%	60%	70%	50%
4	63%	67%	53%	71%	58%	60%	62%
5	72%	72%	71%	82%	65%	55%	55%
6	74%	73%	70%	85%	70%	55%	75%
7	62%	65%	53%	69%	56%	61%	49%
8	58%	65%	50%	70%	40%	50%	50%
9	62%	62%	54%	72%	61%	52%	61%
<b>Average</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>54%</b>

\* % of total sites with a unique quality

**Note on Scoring and Calculations:**

Scores are based on a 5-point scale and converted to percentages for consistency and ease of comparison. Overall scores are calculated by summing individual ratings (each out of 5), dividing by the maximum possible total (e.g. 25), and expressing the result as a percentage.





## 3.1 Summary Trends and Influences

### Trends and Influences

Mornington Peninsula Shire faces a variety of global social, environmental, and economic challenges. By recognising these factors and responding thoughtfully, we can maintain a healthy, dynamic, and sustainable network of public open spaces that supports the community now and in the future.

For more detail please refer to the following supporting documents; Open Space Discussion Paper, Use and Trends Report, and Stakeholder and Community Engagement Report.

The following section provides a summary overview of the unique context, trends, influences, challenges and opportunities that have been used to inform the open space strategy.



#### Uniqueness of Place

The Mornington Peninsula landscape is shaped by diverse topography, from rugged coastal cliffs and beaches to the sheltered foreshore of the bays and wooded hills and open plains. The Peninsula has a unique location with the wild ocean of Bass Strait to the south, contrasted with the comparatively calm waters of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port Bay. The Shire includes large areas of bushland including Point Nepean Park, Mornington Peninsula National Park and Arthurs Seat State Park.

Previously shaped by sixty thousand years of Bunurong custodianship, post-colonisation, the landscape now includes coastal beach shacks, holiday homes, rural and industrial communities, as well as military facilities. The unique townships, landscapes, communities and Traditional Custodianship all contribute to and form the sense of place that makes Mornington Peninsula special.



#### Reconciliation

The Mornington Peninsula sits on the traditional lands of the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation. Through initiatives like the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Shire is committed to fostering reconciliation, raising awareness of shared histories, and deepening understanding of Traditional Owner cultural connections to the land. Public spaces play a key role in acknowledging this heritage and celebrating Traditional Owner culture.



#### Living, Working and Playing Locally

The Mornington Peninsula offers a unique mix of rural, coastal, and urban environments. By creating walkable, well-designed neighbourhoods with diverse housing and transport options, we can promote sustainable lifestyles. Our goal is to enhance access to quality open spaces, encouraging local living, reducing car use, and fostering healthier, more connected communities.



#### Tourism and Visitation

Increasing local tourism (due to population growth in metropolitan Melbourne), especially during the summer season peak, is putting pressure on parks in popular tourist areas that can not handle the intensity of use. Many beach holiday resorts are based along the Port Phillip coastline, with the population swelling by up to 30% in the summer months.



#### Cost of Living

The rising cost of living is placing increasing pressure on families and individuals in the Mornington Peninsula. Accessible and well-maintained public open spaces offer an affordable way for residents to enjoy recreational activities and connect with nature, helping to reduce the financial burden on local families. Prioritising these spaces ensures that all community members have access to high-quality, cost-effective outdoor experiences.



### Changing Demographics

The Mornington Peninsula is experiencing shifting demographics, with a growing, diverse population and an increasing number of older residents. As the population ages and service demands evolve, the open space network must adapt to ensure parks and facilities are accessible and inclusive for all.

The population of Mornington Peninsula Shire in 2021 was 168,862, and it is expected to grow to 187,540 by 2036, an increase of approximately 10% in the next 10 years.

Projected population growth is lower in Mornington Peninsula Shire than Metropolitan Melbourne as a whole (which is expected to be approximately 30%). Some areas in the Shire that are predicted to grow at or above 10% include:

- Rosebud +9.5%
- Mount Eliza +10.4%
- Bittern, Crib Point +11.6%
- Dromana +12.1%

While the Mornington Peninsula (18% born overseas) remains less culturally diverse than Greater Melbourne (36%), it is experiencing gradual changes in its cultural landscape.



### Aging Population

The Mornington Peninsula has an older population compared to the Victorian average, which includes a higher proportion of residents who experience disability or have varying mobility requirements.

The median age of residents is 46 (10 years higher than greater Melbourne). There are less 20-39 year olds and more 60+ year olds.

Creating welcoming and accessible open spaces requires designs and facilities that reflect the recreational interests and accessibility needs of older adults. This is especially important in areas of the Shire with a higher proportion of older residents, where applying universal design principles is increasingly essential to ensure inclusive and age-friendly environments.



### Urban Growth and Housing Pressure

As the Mornington Peninsula grows, especially in areas like Rosebud, Mornington, and Hastings, there is an increasing need for well-planned open spaces to support a larger, more diverse population. The challenge is ensuring new developments include ample green spaces while preserving the region's natural landscape to maintain residents' quality of life.

Development of new suburban areas can sometimes feel "generic" and some attempts at creating sense of place can feel inauthentic which can make parks in new areas feel a bit out of place.

There is a building expectation that the Shire will work towards preserving or increasing the current amount and quality of green space on the Peninsula. While work is ongoing, this is often behind the scenes or incremental and progress may not always be obvious.

In 2025, the Victorian Government set housing targets for Mornington Peninsula Shire of an additional 24,000 new dwellings by 2051. As shown below, this will result in approximately 117,505 dwellings by 2051 and 266,736 residents, noting that this is based on a basic calculation multiplying the additional housing by the predicted average household size, as population forecasts for these changes has not yet been released.

The Strategy provides capacity for approximately 25,183 new dwellings over the next 15 years, exceeding the State Government's Plan for Victoria target of 24,000 new dwellings by 2051. This equates to a capacity for around 1,200 new dwellings per year. The following table demonstrates the estimated impact of the housing targets on projected population.

Projections	2026	2051 (including Housing Targets)
Total Dwellings	96,129	120,129
Estimated Population	176,389	230,869*

\*Estimates modelled on the 2046 projected household size of 2.27 persons per household.



**Climate Change and Resilience**

The Mornington Peninsula is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, more frequent extreme weather events, and changing rainfall patterns, all of which place increasing pressure on sensitive natural areas. To protect both the environment and community, it is essential to design climate-resilient open spaces that manage heat, mitigate stormwater impacts, and support biodiversity. These spaces not only help preserve the region’s natural heritage but also provide critical refuge during extreme conditions.

As future climate scenarios predict greater heat intensity and weather variability, open spaces will need to incorporate more shade, improved water management, and adaptive design. In response, the Shire’s Urban Forest Strategy sets a target of 45% tree canopy cover across public streets and parks by 2034.



**Coastal Erosion and Storm Tide Inundation**

The Shire’s coastlines and natural areas are highly valued by the community, and addressing climate change is a high priority. Coastal areas are becoming degraded or less accessible due to high levels of use during peak seasons and environmental impacts such as storm surge and erosion.

Use patterns are seasonal and often correlate with high numbers of day visitors or holiday makers during peak season. The popular beachside townships require open spaces that suit an intermittent visitor community, whilst the more suburban areas i.e. Somerville have a consistent all year-round residential population. Some townships, especially along Port Phillip Bay, have both a significant resident population along with an influx of holiday makers.

The ‘Our Coast Our Future’ Strategy outlines key focus areas along the coast which could be at risk of erosion and inundation in the coming years. Identifying strategies for these areas will have implications on the way open space in these areas can be used in the future and the appropriate type of infrastructure.



**Threatened Biodiversity**

Australia is facing a rapid decline in native species, and the Mornington Peninsula is no exception. As one of Victoria’s most biodiverse regions, it plays a key role in protecting and enhancing biodiversity corridors. We must focus on rehabilitating threatened species, safeguarding habitats, and offering accessible open spaces for the community to connect with nature.

Some sensitive environments are being degraded due to the rising popularity of recreation activities in natural, rural and cultural heritage areas.

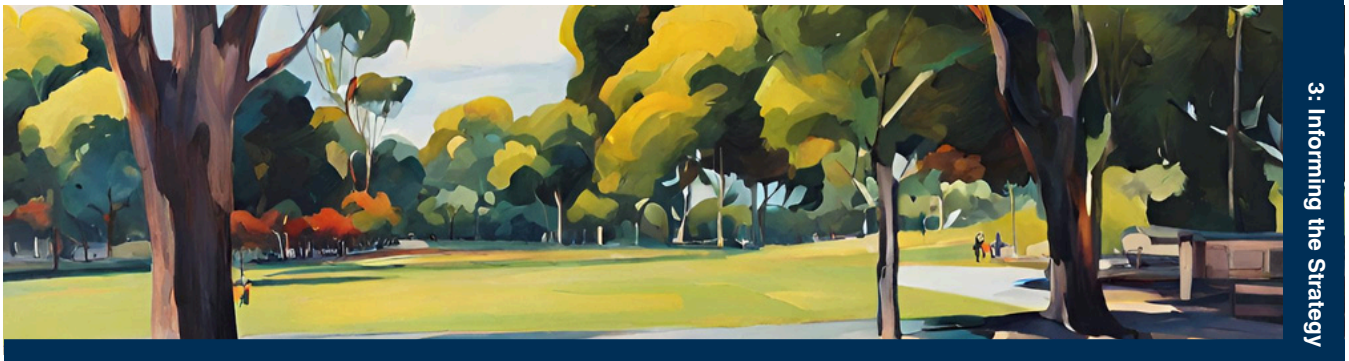


**Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health**

The Mornington Peninsula is one of Victoria’s most biodiverse regions, with a rich variety of native plants, animals and ecosystems. The landscape includes coastal scrub and wetlands in the south and along the coast, and herb-rich woodlands and heathlands across the central ridges and plains.

The Shire’s Biodiversity Conservation Plan (2019) recognises that while land use changes such as viticulture, urbanisation and exotic pastures have altered the environment, significant areas of ecological value remain. These areas support threatened species and provide important opportunities to restore habitat and improve ecosystem health.

Traditional Owners, the Bunurong peoples, have cared for the Peninsula for thousands of years. Their deep knowledge of the land and continued custodianship are central to the ongoing protection and enhancement of the Peninsula’s natural systems.



### Social Equity

People face barriers to participating in community life and physical activity due to transport, cost, inaccessible environments, and attitudes that can make spaces feel unsafe or unwelcoming. Achieving equity in our open spaces means supporting all communities, including people with disability, older adults, and those from diverse cultural backgrounds, to access and enjoy public places.

Promoting social equity is essential for a strong, unified community. Public open spaces on the Mornington Peninsula help bring people together, build trust, and encourage participation. We are committed to ensuring equitable access to safe, inclusive spaces for all residents, and through thoughtful planning, we aim to improve the accessibility and safety of parks and outdoor areas for everyone.



### Health and Wellbeing

With rising physical inactivity, chronic disease, and mental health issues, accessible, high-quality open spaces are crucial. On the Mornington Peninsula, these spaces promote active lifestyles and support physical and mental health.

Physical activity, community events and social opportunities benefit people's physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. Parks and reserves offer opportunities to connect with nature, reduce stress, and improve wellbeing, contributing to a healthier, happier community.



### New Technology

As technology evolves, the Mornington Peninsula is adopting new tools to improve the planning and management of public spaces. By using smart sensors and data, we can better understand how these spaces are used and create more efficient, sustainable solutions to meet the community's changing needs. These innovations will help create smarter, more adaptable open spaces.



### Rising Expectations and Community Engagement

The community has higher expectations for their parks to provide opportunities for a broader range of activities with a focus on health and social connectivity. As expectations for open spaces rise, involving residents in their planning and management becomes essential.

On the Mornington Peninsula, engaging the community ensures spaces meet local needs and reflect residents' values. By fostering collaboration, we can create well-maintained, accessible, and sustainable spaces that promote social cohesion and meet the diverse demands of the community.



### Contested Space

The demand for open space is increasing, driven by a diverse range of needs including recreation, sport, events, and environmental conservation. As these uses grow, so too do the tensions between different user groups, such as those with dogs, cyclists, sporting participants, and nature enthusiasts. In many cases, open space can be designed or adapted to be more multifunctional, allowing it to better support a variety of activities and reduce conflict.

At the same time, population growth in town centres is placing additional pressure on existing open space, highlighting the need for more thoughtful planning and design. Properties with no or small backyards are more reliant on parks, increasing the need to improve the carrying capacity of some public open spaces.

In the Mornington Peninsula, it is essential to create multi-use spaces that accommodate diverse activities while respecting the environment. Careful planning can ensure these spaces meet the community's evolving needs.



3: Informing the Strategy



### Increase in Use of Open Space for Informal Recreation

There is increasing interest in informal physical activity and towards independent activities, predominantly walking, especially with dogs.

Although Australians are generally more health conscious, they are also more time poor. This phenomenon is thought to be contributing to a trend away from traditional organised sports towards less formal recreational activities that do not require participants to attend weekly training sessions or fixed match times.



### Physical Activity and Play

The Mornington Peninsula offers an abundance of parks, reserves and sporting facilities that cater for a wide range of activities. Large open spaces offer destinations for sport, events, or gatherings, while smaller spaces distributed through neighborhoods provide a green space for daily exercise, play and respite.

In addition to local residents and visitors, there are approximately 300 sporting / recreation groups, 50 schools as well as a variety of other groups that use the Shire's fields, courts and facilities regularly.

Despite this almost 40% of residents are insufficiently physically active.

Play spaces for younger age groups are well distributed, but some are ageing with high levels of wear and tear and elements of poor design. There could be improvements with respect to play facilities for youth (15 – 24) and seniors.

The Sports Capacity Plan indicates that the amount of land dedicated to sporting infrastructure is generally good however recommends the acquisition of additional land in some key locations. Surveys suggest that residents are generally satisfied with ovals and other sport facilities. However, some sporting clubs indicated that the number of facilities do not meet their current and future needs.



### Demand for Open Space for Sport

Higher than average participation in organised sport, increasingly by women and girls, has created hot spots of high demand for accessible and welcoming facilities.

Although the Shire has a reasonable supply of sporting fields in general, there are hot spots where supply does not meet demand (source: Sports Capacity Plan). For example, the northern suburbs of the Shire have a higher proportion of young people and families and therefore the highest demand for sporting facilities.

Where open space is not available, innovation such as considering upgrading fields to synthetic surfaces which provide hard wearing, multi-use, all weather venues that can be programmed intensively to help meet demand without additional space. Formalising public use of school sporting grounds through Joint Use Agreements is also a method for increasing access to open space.



### Rise in Demand for Multifunctional Open Space

Multifunctional open spaces can increase options for physical activity, play, and events and are becoming increasingly important to meet rising demand for space.

Multifunctional Open Spaces offer 'something for everyone' and attract a variety of users at different times of the day and night, with different interests and can result in vibrant places.

Multifunctional spaces, inherently come with potential for conflict. Feeling unsafe due to other park users being antisocial, and concern about off leash dogs, for example, are barriers for some and can prevent people feeling safe in open spaces (Source: Community Engagement Finding Phase #1).

Despite the large proportion of open space per person in Mornington Peninsula some areas have low levels of open space dedicated to sport and recreation.



### Ageing Open Space Infrastructure

Existing assets such as playgrounds and park furniture are ageing and renewal/maintenance costs are increasing resulting in significant financial constraints for Council, all while community expectations are rising.

The condition of open spaces, especially of grass and trails, is important to the community and is a major contributor to overall satisfaction with parks.

Council has a backlog of undelivered park masterplans which are awaiting funding to be built. With rapidly increasing costs it is becoming more difficult to deliver new infrastructure.

Additionally, it is not possible to provide equal investment across all geographic areas, instead the Shire needs to prioritise investment in assets that provide the most benefit to the greatest numbers of people.



### Asset Management and Maintenance

Asset management and maintenance are becoming increasingly challenging for the Shire due to financial constraints and rising costs.

These pressures are limiting the ability to develop new amenities and requiring a more strategic approach to maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure. While overall community satisfaction with open space maintenance remains relatively high, survey feedback highlights the need for improvements in the condition, connectivity, and accessibility of footpaths and trails.

Public toilets, which are essential for many users, including older adults, families with young children, and people with health conditions, are not meeting expectations in terms of availability, quality, or location. Limited water supply is also affecting the usability and condition of sports fields and ovals.

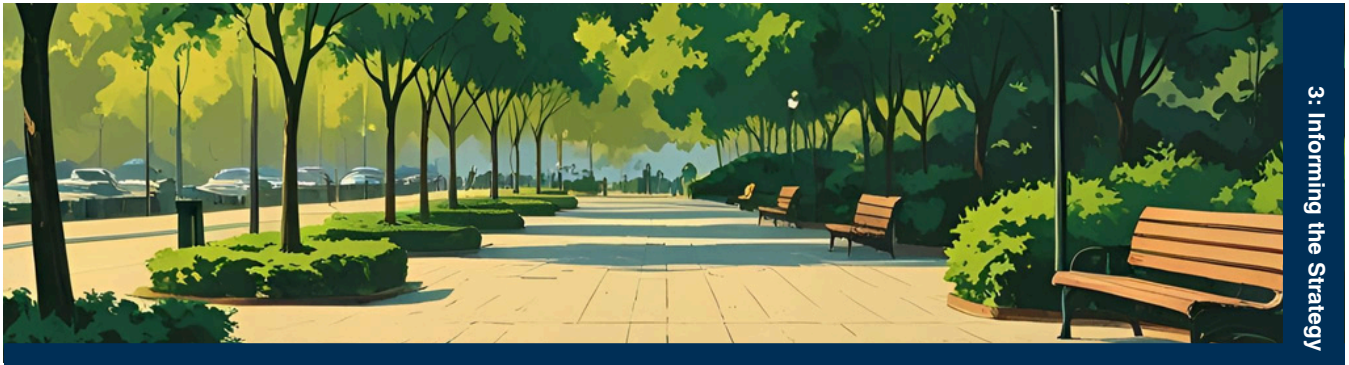
To maintain a sustainable open space network, the Shire must continue to assess and prioritise its assets, exploring opportunities to rationalise, repurpose, or reconfigure spaces to better align with community needs and resource availability.



Designing for all, or Universal Design, makes sense from a social justice perspective but is also a sound economic and strategic approach that will future-proof our community infrastructure, ensuring safe and equitable access for everyone.

**- Universal Design Policy**





## 3.2 Planning and Growth

### Development History

Significant development occurred during the post-war years, particularly from the 1960s to the 1980s. Residential growth was aided by improved access and industrial development in the east (around Crib Point and Hastings). The population continued to increase from the 1990s, with much of this growth occurring in Mornington and Mount Martha. Growth is expected to continue, from new 'greenfield' opportunities, development of vacant lots and the conversion of holiday homes to permanent settlement.

### State Population Targets

Under the Plan for Victoria, the Victorian State Government has set targets for 2.24 million new homes across Victoria by 2051 in line with population growth. Each of Victoria's 79 councils has been provided with a draft target for where the proposed 2.24 million new homes could be built. This was driven largely because Councils play an important role in creating new homes by developing local planning policies and granting permit approvals. In Mornington Peninsula Shire, the target is for an additional 24,000 dwellings by 2051.

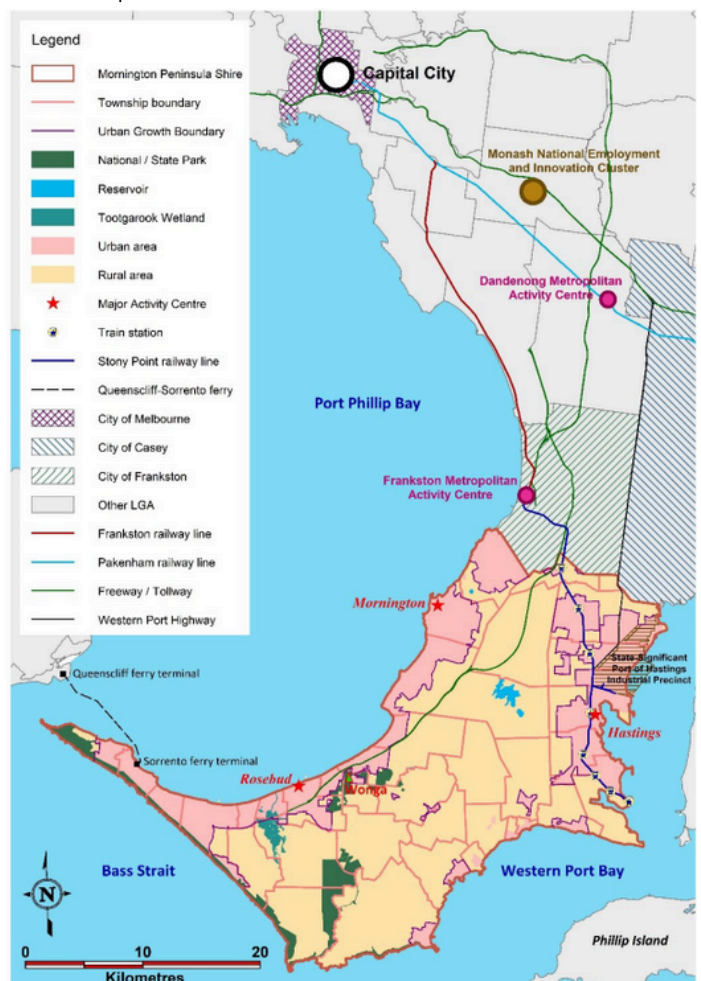
### Housing and Settlement Strategy

The primary mechanism for planning growth in the Mornington Peninsula Shire is the Housing and Settlement Strategy (HSS), recently implemented through Amendment C219morn. The HSS identifies areas of minimal, incremental, and substantial change to guide targeted and sustainable growth across the municipality.

The Strategy provides capacity for approximately 25,183 new dwellings over the next 15 years, exceeding the State Government's Plan for Victoria target of 24,000 new dwellings by 2051. This equates to a capacity for around 1,200 new dwellings per year.

### Activity Centre Strategy

The Shire's Activity Centre Strategy is another supporting document in planning for growth and development. Denser urban growth can be expected within these centres with Mornington, Hastings and Rosebud being the 3 Major Activity Centres with the highest access to services. Growth outside of activity centres is guided by the Housing and Settlement Strategy in the form of more traditional infill development.



Source: Mornington Peninsula Shire Housing and Settlement Strategy



### Open Space Upgrade Delivery Models

There are a number of options to enhance the existing open space network for the Mornington Peninsula.

- Enhance: Upgrade existing open spaces to support greater or more diverse usage and capacity.
- Acquire: Provide new open space through developer contributions, land purchase, or compulsory acquisition.
- Improve Access: Increase and enhance access points and connections, eliminating barriers to accessing current open spaces.
- Share / Lease: Open private or restricted land, such as school grounds, for public open space use, like weekend access.
- Extend: Expand current open spaces by repurposing nearby land for larger areas.
- Transform: Convert underused land, like rail reserves or service easements, into valuable open space.

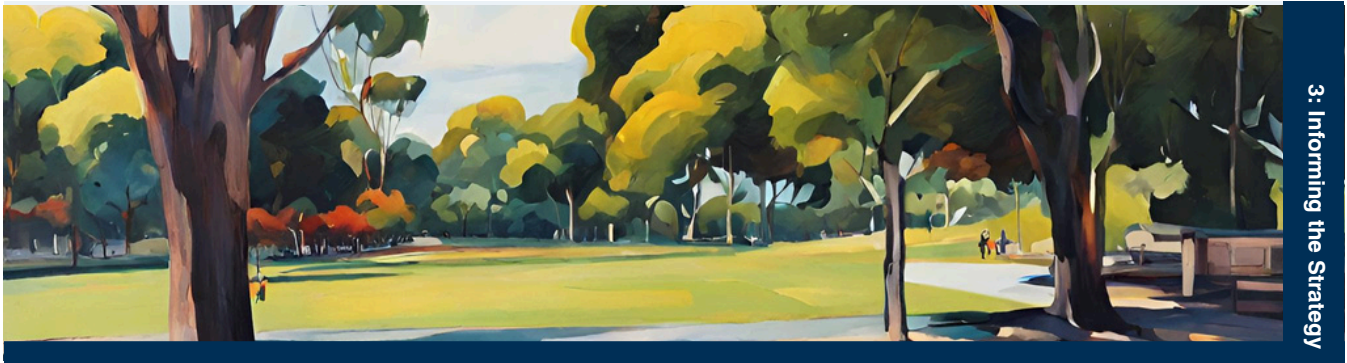
### Integrated Placemaking and Master Plans

In local government in Victoria, a place-making plan or master plan for a park is a comprehensive, long-term strategic document that guides the development, management, and improvement of a park or open space area. It outlines the vision for the park's future, detailing how the park will evolve over time to meet the needs of the community while balancing environmental, social, and economic factors.

Key elements of a park master plan typically include:

- Site Analysis: A detailed assessment of the park's current conditions, including natural features, infrastructure, accessibility, and usage patterns.
- Community Consultation: Engagement with the community and stakeholders to understand their needs, preferences, and aspirations for the park.
- Design Framework: A plan that includes proposed improvements to facilities, amenities, landscaping, pathways, recreational spaces, and ecological considerations.
- Development Staging: A phased approach to implementation, identifying immediate priorities and longer-term goals.
- Sustainability: Strategies for maintaining or enhancing environmental health, such as water management, habitat protection, and energy-efficient designs.
- Budgeting and Funding: Cost estimates for proposed improvements and identification of potential funding sources.
- Management and Maintenance Plans: Recommendations for the ongoing upkeep and management of the park's features and assets.

Master plans are typically used for larger or more complex parks, those with significant community use, or those with specific environmental or heritage considerations. These plans help ensure that developments are coordinated and align with broader planning policies and community expectations.



## 3.3 Funding Open Space

The Strategy identifies ways to secure and optimise funding for open space across the Mornington Peninsula, including rates, grants, developer contributions, and land swaps. It promotes alignment with partner strategies to improve efficiency and transparency.

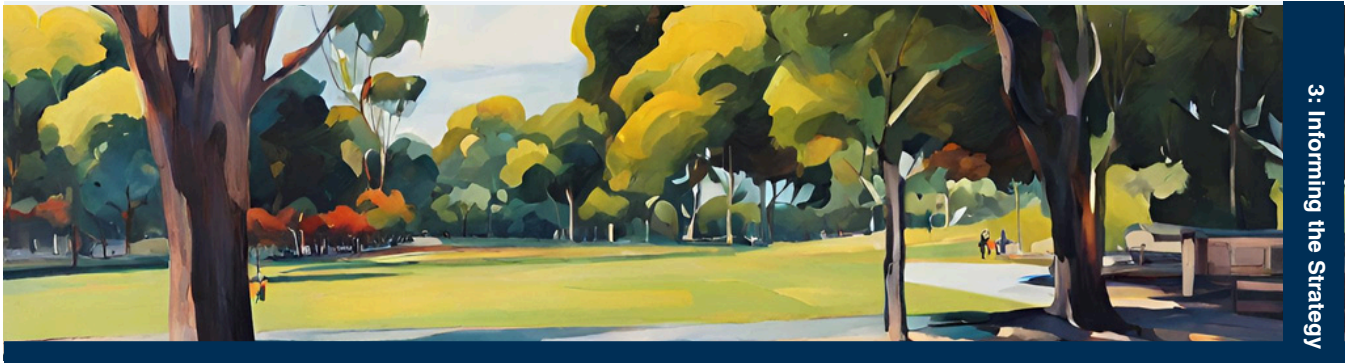
Funding will be guided by Council's long-term planning and strategic priorities. The mix of contributions, budgets, grants, and partnerships will vary depending on the project's context, scale, and purpose.

The following options and methods outline how funds may be acquired to purchase, inherit, and improve open space.

### **Funding Open Space Acquisition and Improvements**

High land acquisition costs across the Shire pose a challenge for expanding open space. Council can manage and develop the open space network through several funding mechanisms:

- Property rates collected from landowners;
- User fees and charges;
- State and Federal Government grants;
- Levies embedded in a Development Contribution Plan or Infrastructure Contribution Plan (Planning and Environment Act 1987);
- Development levies under the Subdivision Act 1988;
- Codifying contribution rates in the Planning Scheme under Clause 53.01;
- Occasionally bequeathed or donated land;
- Public Private Partnerships (PPP); and
- Rationalisation and redeployment - disposal of land surplus to the network to reinvest in open space improvements.



**Contributions through the Planning Scheme**

To support the delivery and upgrade of open space there are three central planning mechanisms:

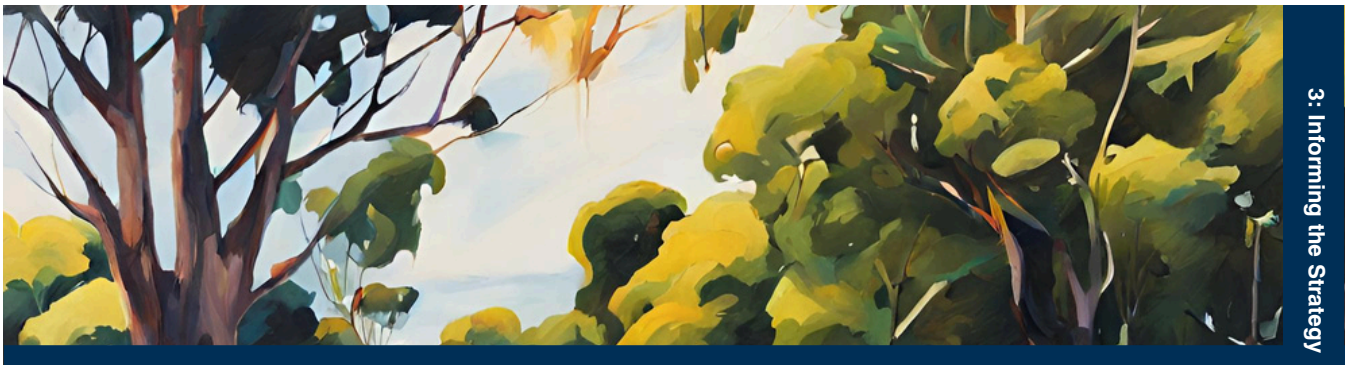
- Embed levies in a Development Contribution Plan (DCP) made under 3A of the Planning & Environment Act 1987.
- Rely on the general power to levy development upon the creation of separate allotments under the Subdivision Act 1988.
- Codify the levy power under the Subdivision Act by incorporating municipal wide or district/area specific contribution rates in the Planning Scheme by amending the Schedule to Clause 53.01.

As detailed in the Schedule to Clause 53.01 of the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme, most of the land within the municipality is subject to a 5% open space contribution rate based on the site value for a subdivision that creates 3 or more lots.

There are 3 locations within the municipality that are subject to a higher rate (refer to the table to the right). Developers can make this contribution in the form of land or a financial payment.

All financial contributions are placed into a dedicated Open Space Reserve, which funds the acquisition and improvement of public open spaces.

Type or location of subdivision	Amount of contribution for public open space
Land bounded by Mornington-Tyabb Road; the boundary of the Residential 1 Zone between Mornington-Tyabb Road and Craigie Road; Craigie Road and Nepean Highway, Mornington as shown on Map 1 to this Schedule.	Land contribution: Nine percent (9%) of the land to be subdivided, or Cash-in-lieu contribution: Twelve percent (12%) of the site value of the land to be subdivided, or Combination contribution: A land contribution equal to nine percent (9%) of a portion of the land to be subdivided plus a cash-in-lieu contribution equal to twelve percent (12%) of the site value of the remaining portion of the land to be subdivided.
Land affected by schedule 11 to Clause 43.02, being Design and Development Overlay Schedule 11 - Mt Eliza (North Of Tower Road) Development Design (DDO11).	Five percent (5%) of the site area or five percent (5%) of the site value of the land to be subdivided; and a further five percent (5%) of the site area or five percent (5%) of the site value of the land to be subdivided; with any cash in lieu contribution to be applied towards environmental improvement (including conservation land acquisition) in the Mt Eliza area generally. The calculation of this further five percent (5%) may be discounted by the area or site value of any lot that contains a dwelling that existed at 19 May 2005; provided that the total public open space contribution is equivalent to no less than \$10,000, indexed in accordance with the CPI, for every new lot created.
1440 Frankston-Flinders Road Tyabb (Lot 2, LP 91280, Vol 8877 Fol 905).	Land contribution: Seven and a half percent (7.5%)
Other Residential subdivision.	Five percent (5%)
Commercial.	Five percent (5%)
Industrial.	Five percent (5%)



### Future Contributions System

Council can collect development contributions through the creation of a Development Contributions Plan (DCP). While DCP contributions can be used to fund improvements for specific development areas, they do not provide the consistency or flexibility gained via a municipal wide developer contribution rate.

Action 9 of the Plan For Victoria commits to the investigation of a new system for infrastructure contributions. Action 13 commits to introduce minimum standards and guidance for open space in established urban areas. Together, these actions would provide more clarity into whether there is an under provision or over provision of open space and how to leverage funding to improve and grow the network.

Council engaged SGS to undertake an evidence-based open space contribution analysis and recommended rate. Strong justification is provided for applying a 5.5% open space contribution rate to all future residential and commercial developments. This rate is proposed to replace the current 5% contribution applied to 'other' residential subdivisions, as well as to commercial and industrial developments, in the Planning Scheme.

For more information please refer to the Open Space Contributions Report (2025).

### Capital Works, Maintenance and Renewal Funding

Funding for upgrading and maintaining open space is provided by Council's rate revenue and delivers horticulture, turf, tree, asset management, waste, education and enforcement to protect and renew Council-managed open space.

Increased construction and approval costs due to supply, regulatory and community expectation changes have increased pressure on the funding. Emergency response works in response to storms, flooding and heatwaves are also increasing.

### Open Space Contributions Reserve Fund

The Open Space Contributions Reserve Fund holds revenue generated through Open Space Contributions, which are collected and expended in accordance with Section 20(2) of the Subdivision Act 1988. All proceeds from these contributions are retained in this fund for the provision and improvement of public open space.

### Sustainable Funding Mechanisms

To ensure sustainable service levels for open space maintenance, Council must strengthen long-term financial planning and establish clearer budget safeguards.

This includes reviewing current budgets to confirm that maintenance funding aligns with agreed service levels, and planning ahead through multi-year schedules covering parks, trails, foreshore, and bushland areas.

Maintenance priorities should consider community expectations and be guided by asset criticality, with ongoing monitoring and reporting to track funding, service levels, and performance against available resources. This will support more transparent and informed decision-making over time.

### Community Capital

Many community groups and users directly fund improvements to local open spaces. This community capital represents a vital funding source that complements Council contributions and demonstrates the strong local commitment to maintaining and enhancing open space assets. Recognising and supporting community-led investment can help leverage further improvements and foster ongoing stewardship.



## 3.4 Community Engagement and Insights

### Community Engagement

The community engagement process was comprehensive and multi-phased, designed not only to capture broad community input but also to meaningfully integrate it into strategic decision-making.

In Phase 1, the focus was on understanding how parks and open spaces were currently used, identifying barriers to access, and establishing community priorities, particularly around inclusivity, safety, and accessibility.

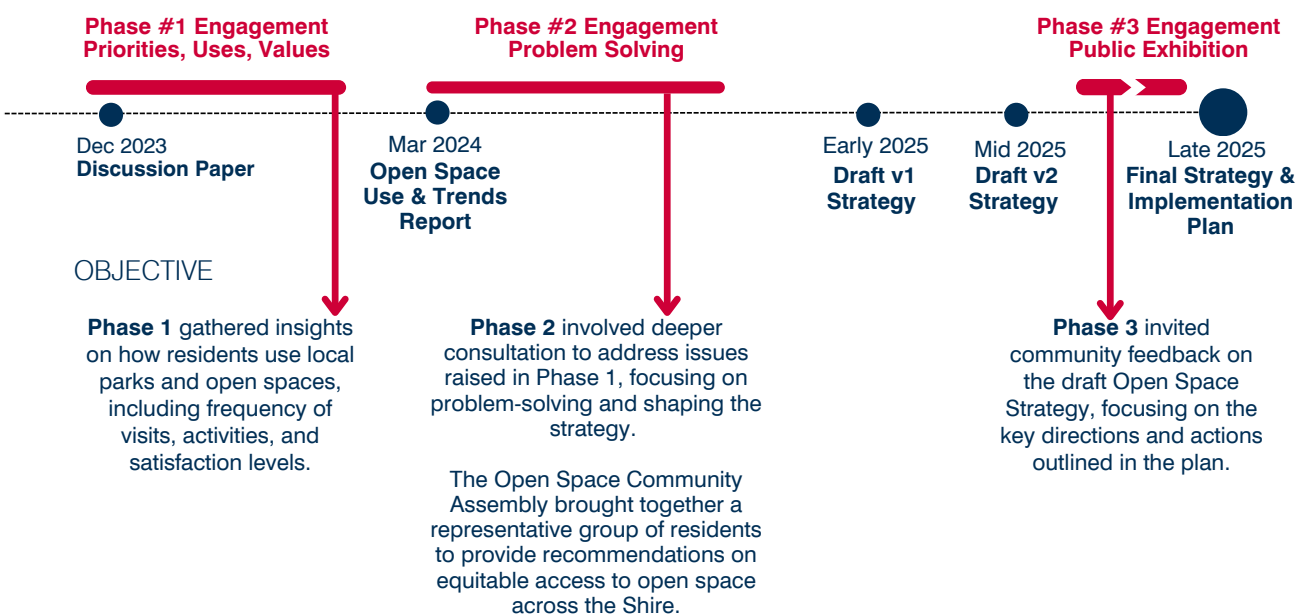
This phase laid the foundation for more in-depth engagement in Phase 2, which used deliberative methods to involve underrepresented groups and stakeholders in shaping core components of the strategy, especially service standards.

Through diverse platforms such as surveys, workshops, school activities, AI youth design competition, and targeted outreach, the engagement process brought forward a range of perspectives, values, and practical suggestions for future park design and management.

What sets this process apart is the deliberate effort to not only reflect community preferences but also gauge their tolerance and expectations regarding service provision and access standards. The community assembly, worked through complex trade-offs by prioritising activities and setting realistic access metrics (e.g. maximum travel distances to important open space experiences). This approach acknowledges that while residents may desire certain amenities or features, their willingness to travel or compromise informs how those services are equitably distributed across precincts.

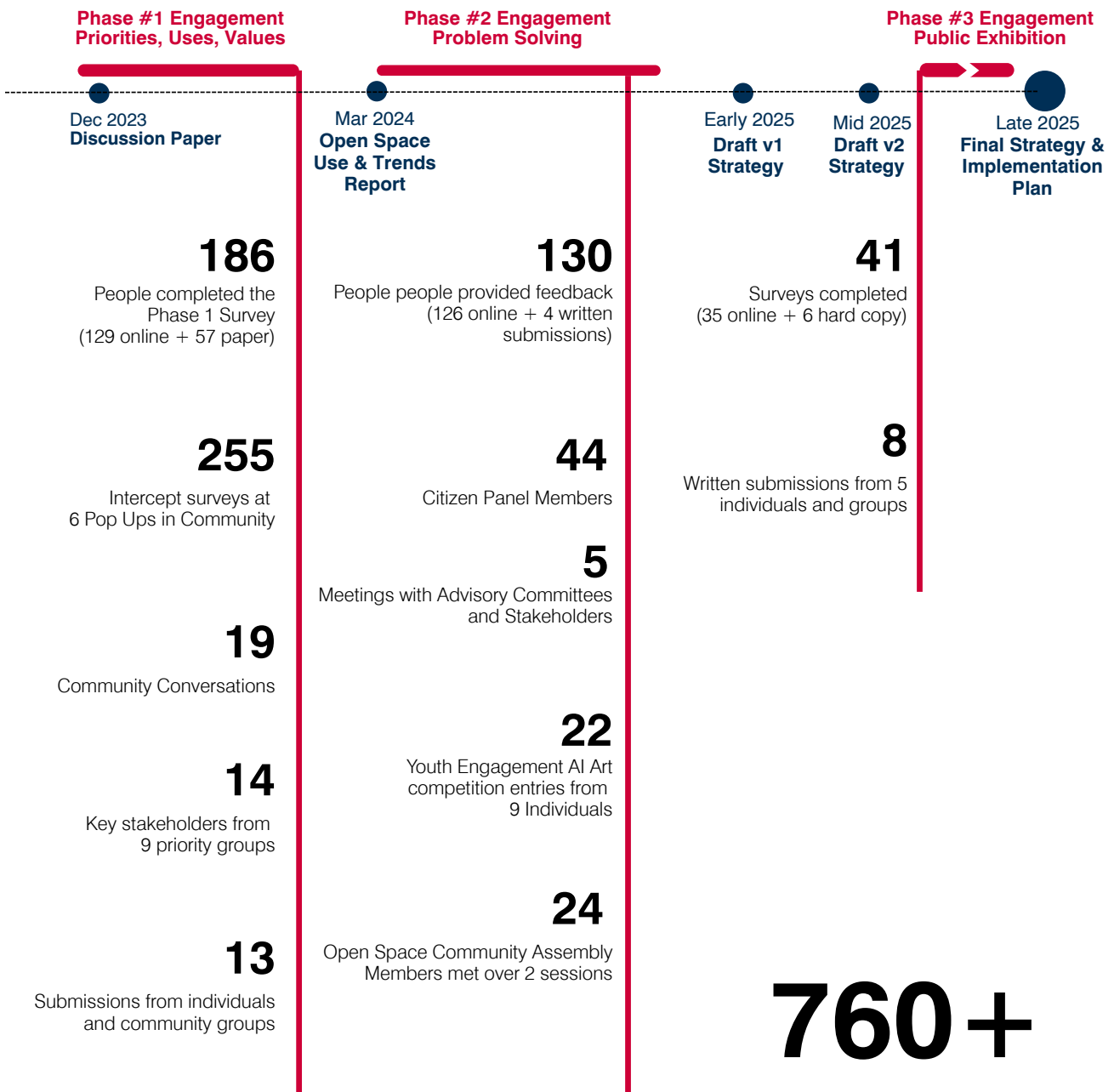
By incorporating both aspiration and acceptability, the strategy becomes more resilient and community-aligned, ensuring that investments are not only welcomed but also realistically used and supported.

#### Engagement Timeline





## Overview of Engagement on the Strategy





## Phase 1 Engagement - Priorities, Uses and Values

Phase 1 focused on understanding how people used parks and open spaces, including the types of activities they engaged in, visit frequency, preferred features, and overall satisfaction.

It also explored barriers to access, ensuring spaces were inclusive for all, including people with disabilities, women, gender-diverse individuals, and single-parent families.

Safety and security concerns, especially for under-represented groups, were considered, with solutions sought to enhance safety for all. Additionally, this phase identified priorities for investment in open spaces, considering trade-offs and resource allocation.

Engagement was informed by a discussion paper, and collected feedback via an online survey. This was supported by a social media and email campaign, online information sessions, and pop-up events across the shire, such as at the Point Nepean Market and Mornington Main Street Market. Additionally, Community Conversation kits were distributed, allowing local groups to meet and discuss the issues raised and provide their feedback to the Shire.

For more information:

Appendix 1 - Discussion Paper

Appendix 3 - Community Engagement

- Phase 1 - Priorities, Uses, Values
- Attachment 1 - Community Conversations Guide



Community Conversations guide (available as an attachment to Appendix 3) allowed local groups to host their own conversations about open space issues.



Discussion Paper (available as Appendix 1 of this report) introduced the issues at play for open space both currently and into the future, to inform the first phase of engagement.



Facebook post Feb 2024 Encouraging the community to engage with consultation activities around the Shire.



## Phase 2 Engagement - Problem Solving

Phase 2 aimed to deepen understanding of barriers to access, respond to feedback from Phase 1, and shape the strategy accordingly.

A Use and Trends report was prepared reflecting the outcomes of Phase 1 engagement to inform this deeper conversation with the community and stakeholders in phase 2.

### Engagement Activities

A series of engagements and consultations took place across multiple platforms to ensure broad community involvement:

- Online Engagement: Digital channels were used to gather input from a wide audience in response to the Use and Trends Report.
- Advisory and Stakeholder Workshops: Five workshops were held with various community groups, including:
  - Disability Advisory Committee
  - Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders
  - Friends/Environmental Groups
  - Trader and Tourism Groups
  - Foreshore Committees of Management
- The Shire's Citizens Panel: deliberated on open space priorities across four themes.
- Youth Engagement: An AI competition encouraged youth participation in a 'Design Your Park Competition'. Young participants (4-17) submitted designs illustrating their ideal open space.
- Eastbourne Primary School Contribution: drawings and statements from students reflected their thoughts on open space design.
- Deliberative Engagement - Open Space Community Assembly: considered experiences available in open space, their importance, and distances which would be considered "accessible" in different areas of the Shire.

For more information:

Appendix 2 - Use and Trends Report

Appendix 3 - Community Engagement

- Phase 2 - Problem Solving
- Attachment 2 - Citizens Panel Report
- Attachment 3 - Community Assembly Members



Use and Trends report (available as appendix 2 of this report) reflected the outcomes of phase 1 engagement to inform deeper conversation in phase 2.

### Citizens' Panel

In May 2024, the Morningson Peninsula Shire's Citizens' Panel convened to provide input into the development of the Open Space Strategy. The purpose of the session was to help identify and prioritise key areas of focus to ensure the strategy meets the needs of the Shire's growing and diverse community.

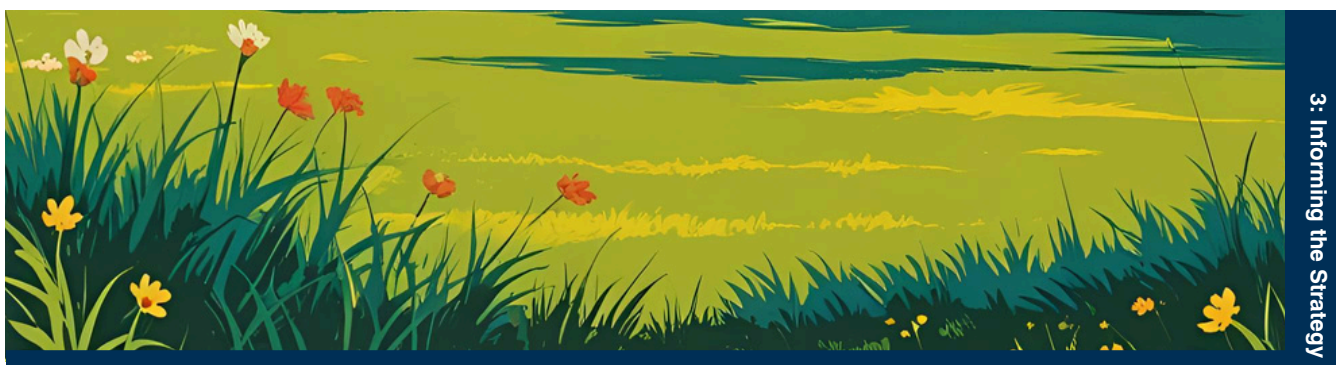
Forty-four panel members, representing a cross-section of the community, engaged in facilitated discussions with Council officers to deepen their understanding of the strategy's scope, emerging themes, and key challenges. Panelists reviewed the Uses and Trends report and took part in a series of interactive activities to rank priorities across the four key themes of the Use and Trends Report.

The deliberative process gave participants the opportunity to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and share local knowledge and lived experience. Their input played a key role in shaping the direction and focus of the strategy.

### Highest Priority Action Identified by the Panel:

- Protect and enhance biodiversity and habitat corridors across the Peninsula to ensure long-term ecosystem health and resilience to climate change.

This priority reflects the community's strong connection to the natural environment and recognition of the critical role that open spaces play in preserving biodiversity and responding to environmental challenges. It will inform strategic actions and investment across the Shire's open space network.



Deliberative Engagement - Open Space Community Assembly

The Deliberative Panel identified the most important types of experiences in open space and established the maximum acceptable travel distances for residents and visitors to feel like they have access to them.

The participants considered the unique needs and preferences of each precinct type (coastal, residential, rural) such as common travel modes (e.g. rural areas are more car dependant).



The Community Assembly discussing experiences in open space and what “accessible” means in different precinct types of the Shire.

**Results**

Most important experiences in open space to have access to, for each precinct type:

	<b>Very Important Experience</b>	<b>Distribution - Accessible Distance</b>
<b>COASTAL</b>	Natural area with a walking trail (e.g. bushland, coast, creekline)	10-15 min drive
	Casual sport/physical activity amenities (e.g. half court, hit up wall, climbing wall, outdoor exercise equipment)	Short Drive/Cycle
	A quiet green space with trees and grass	Short Drive/Cycle
	Area or trail for off-leash dog exercise and socialisation (unfenced)	Short Walk
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	Natural area with a walking trail (e.g. bushland, coast, creekline)	Short Walk
	Park suitable for a family/social gathering (with BBQ, picnic, toilets)	10-15 Min Drive
	A quiet green space with trees and grass	Short Walk
	A grassy open space to kick a ball around	Short Walk
<b>RURAL</b>	A park that can host small community events (e.g., farmers market)	30+ min drive
	A trail, ideally in a loop for a short (under 30 min) walk	5-10 min drive
	Natural area with a walking trail (e.g. bushland, coast, creekline)	5-10 min drive
	Park suitable for a family/social gathering (with BBQ, picnic, toilets)	10-15 min drive



3: Informing the Strategy

## Engagement Key Findings

We identified the following key barriers:



**Personal safety:**  
Largely related to lack of lighting and concerns around anti-social behaviour.



**Unsafe walking and cycling:** Including lack of paths, uneven paths and sand build up near the beach, impacting mobility.



**Dogs in parks and on beaches:** Off-lead dogs where they shouldn't be. Need for more enforcement.

We hold the following values:



**Accessibility and inclusivity**  
Prioritise inclusive design by ensuring continuous, accessible paths of travel that support use by all, including those using wheelchairs, prams, and mobility aids. Incorporate sensory play areas and provide a variety of seating options that accommodate diverse mobility and support needs.



**Infrastructure improvements**  
Improve paths, facilities, seating, and signage, with a focus on universal design and regular maintenance.



**Youth vision for parks**  
Create youth-focused spaces featuring active play areas, adventure elements, and opportunities for nature-based learning.



**Environmental conservation**  
Focus on conserving natural habitats and maintaining biodiversity, with concerns about the impact of overdevelopment.



**Community building**  
Incorporate local heritage and cultural elements, using Traditional Owner art, cultural events, and educational features to create vibrant community spaces that support social interaction and strengthen community ties.



The Winner of the Design Your Park AI Competition. The design blends native Australian nature through embracement of Traditional Owner Australian culture and artwork.

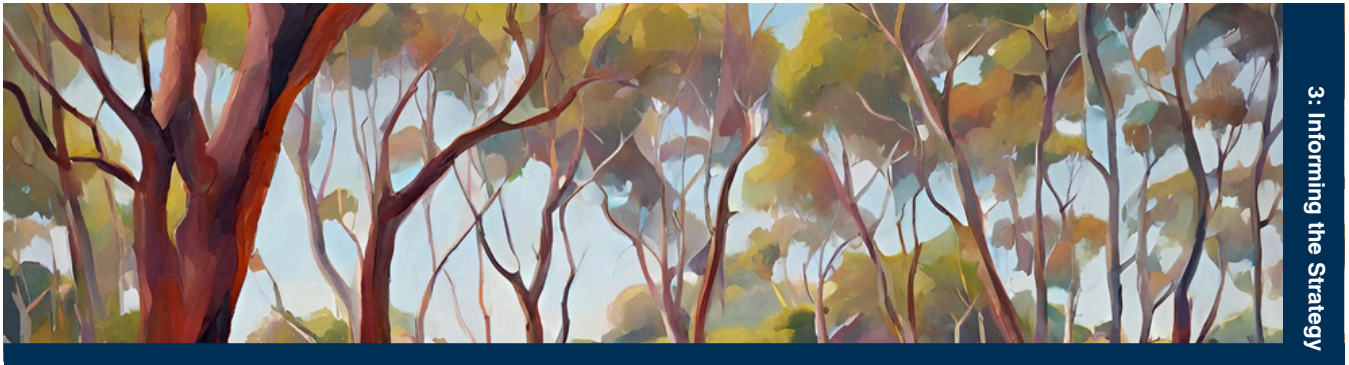


"I'd like to see more multi-use spaces. lots of other shire's are building new parks that have pump tracks, playgrounds, basketball courts. We need more of those...."

"There is room for improvement, the condition and maintenance can vary across the shire from good to bad... "

- Somerville resident

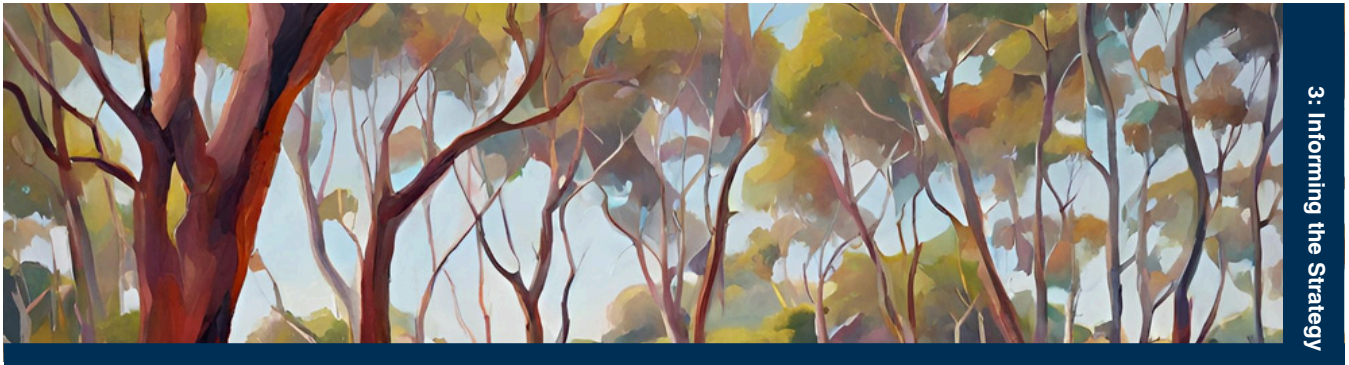




## Integrating Community Insights

Community feedback has been instrumental in shaping this Strategy, ensuring local needs and preferences are reflected in the planning process and priorities. Through consultations and surveys, insights from residents have helped identify key amenities and the types of spaces that will best serve the community.

Community Insights	Strategy Response
 <p><b>Natural Areas with Trails</b> Walking trails in natural spaces are highly valued for relaxation and exercise.</p>	<p>Identifies opportunities to upgrade sites with limited natural amenities, recommending indigenous plantings, trees, and diverse understory species to enhance habitat.</p> <p>The target is to establish a natural area within 1km of each township residence.</p>
 <p><b>Quiet Green Spaces</b> Peaceful parks with trees and grass offer a retreat from urban life.</p>	<p>Recognising the value of undeveloped green spaces to the community, recommending installing seating and shade trees in selected open spaces to provide more options for peaceful retreat.</p>
 <p><b>Off-Leash Dog Areas</b> Designated dog zones promote socialisation and exercise for pets.</p>	<p>Open spaces have been identified as opportunities for off leash zones.</p> <p>The target is to establish a dog off-leash area within 1km of each township residence, where feasible.</p>
 <p><b>Casual Sports Amenities</b> Spaces with half courts, climbing walls, and outdoor equipment cater to active recreation.</p>	<p>Identifies open spaces with the potential to be upgraded to support infrastructure for active recreation.</p>
 <p><b>Playgrounds for All Ages</b> Medium-sized playgrounds for regular visits and large adventure playgrounds for varied ages and abilities.</p>	<p>Identifies the need to review the Playground Strategy / Renewal Plan to prioritise playground upgrades and improvements in the most strategic locations inclusive of clear design guidelines.</p>



Community Insights	Strategy Response
 <p><b>Family-Friendly Parks</b> Parks with picnic areas, BBQs, and toilets are essential for family outings.</p>	<p>Identifies the appropriate infrastructure for park size and catchment, with toilets expected at regional and some district open spaces, and highlights the need to review the Public Toilet Strategy.</p>
 <p><b>Multi-Functional Spaces</b> Open areas for casual play, multi-purpose sports, skateparks, walking trails, and events like farmers' markets.</p>	<p>Identifies the need to provide flexible infrastructure in parks to allow for multiple activities and highlights open spaces that have the potential to provide more flexible use and a broader range of activities.</p>
 <p><b>Allambi Avenue Open Space</b> Address the future open space needs and provision at Allambi Avenue, Capel Sound.</p>	<p>Address the gap in open space and play provision in Capel Sound by developing a minimum of 2.19ha of Allambi Avenue as public open space, including a playspace, in accordance with Neighbourhood Level Public Open Space standards.</p>

For additional information regarding consultation and engagement findings, please refer to:

Appendix 3 - Engagement Report

All documents can also be found on Councils website.

# 3.5 Policy and Strategy Context

## Policy and Strategy Informing the Open Space Strategy

Council has a suite of other documents, strategic frameworks and external guidelines / strategies to guide decision making. These documents provide direction, detailed information and outline agreed approaches which contribute to development and implementation of the Strategy.

State Government Guidance	Victoria Infrastructure Strategy (2021)	Planning Practice Note 70 - DEECA (2015)	Metropolitan Open Space Strategy - DEECA (2021)	Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2023-2027)
		Plan For Victoria (2025)	Guidelines for Open Space Strategies (2025)	Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037
To inform development of the Open Space Strategy	Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2025-2029)	<b>Council Plan (2025 - 2029)</b>	<b>Community Vision</b>	Community Engagement Strategy (2020)
	Mornington Peninsula Localised Planning Statement (2014)	Green Wedge Management Plan (2019)	Recreation Facilities for BMX and MTB Strategy (2023)	Amenities Strategy*
	Activity Centres Strategy (2018)	Coastal Strategy* (2024)	Sustainable Transport Strategy (2015)	Arts and Culture Plan (2020)
	Asset Management Strategy (2020)	Flood and Stormwater Strategy (2022)	Pedestrian Access Strategy (2024)	Reconciliation Action Plan (2025-2027)
	Revenue and Rating Plan (2021)	Urban Forest Strategy (2024)	Sports Capacity Plans (2019 and 2025) Volume 1 (adopted 2019) and Volume 2 and 3 (adopted 2025)	Climate Resilience Plan
	Biodiversity Conservation Plan (2019)	Our Water Future (2021)		Domestic Animal Management Plan (2026-2029)
		Integrated Water Management Plan (2021)		
To guide implementation of the Open Space Strategy	Neighbourhood Character Study and Guidelines (2019)	Water Sensitive Asset Masterplan (2022)	Gender Equality Strategy (2020)	Disability Inclusion Plan (2018)
	Universal Design Policy (2022)	Environmental Reserve Management Plans	Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy	We All Belong Strategy: Towards an Inclusive Mornington Peninsula 2024-2029
To implement the Open Space Strategy	Annual Plan	Contributions Plans	Masterplans	Revision of - Public Toilet Strategy (2012)
	Annual Budget	Structure Plans	Open Space Maintenance Contracts	Revision of - Playspace Strategy (2015)
	Organisational Plan	Mornington Planning Scheme	Asset Plan (2025/26 - 2035/36)	

Plans, policy's guidelines

Strategies

\*in development (yet to be released and/or endorsed by Council)



### Council Plan and the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

The new Open Space Strategy is a key initiative in achieving the goals of the Council Plan and the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029.

They focus on enhancing the accessibility, sustainability, and vibrancy of open spaces to support the community's health and wellbeing. Aligned with the plan's strategic objectives, the strategy aims to preserve natural environments, promote inclusivity, and provide diverse opportunities for recreation, culture, and social connection.

These efforts are vital to building a healthy, resilient, and connected community. Adopted by Council in November 2025 the Council Plan and the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan guide all Council decisions and operations, drawing on the Community Vision and other key documents.

The Open Space Strategy will assist the Shire in achieving the strategic objectives identified in the Council Plan and Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Objectives for Open Space:

- An accessible and unique natural environment that helps our community to be healthy and well.
- A healthy ecosystem, in which our coastline, bushland, wildlife, and green wedge is resilient to the climate emergency and development.
- A sustainable built environment that respects the natural environment and protects the community from the impacts of the climate emergency.
- An accessible built environment that supports diverse, current, and future community needs.
- A community in which people from all generations, backgrounds, and abilities can access local services.
- A community with vibrant arts, culture, sport, and recreational opportunities that foster connections and participation across generations, backgrounds, and abilities.

### State Policy Guidance

The Mornington Peninsula Open Space Strategy aligns with several key state policies and guidelines that shape the planning and development of open spaces. These policies ensure that open space provision is balanced with environmental sustainability, community needs, and broader infrastructure goals.

Key state policies influencing the strategy include:

Policy	Description
Green Wedge Management Plan (2019)	Identifies the values and features of the green wedge, and the preferred future land use.
Metropolitan Open Space Strategy - DEECA (2021)	Aligns local open space planning with regional goals, focusing on accessibility, connectivity, and expanding provision to meet population growth.
Planning Practice Note 70 - DEECA (2015)	Ensures developers contribute to public open spaces in new developments, supporting parks and green spaces in growing areas. (Soon to be replaced with Guide for Open Space Strategies).
Victoria Infrastructure Strategy (2021)	Promotes investment in green infrastructure, ensuring open space planning aligns with broader infrastructure goals to enhance community wellbeing and resilience.
Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2023-2027)	Encourages the creation of accessible, safe open spaces that foster physical activity, mental health, and social connection to improve community health outcomes.
Water for Victoria - Water Plan - DELWP (2016)	Plan for management of water resources amidst climate change and population growth.
Healthy Waterways Strategy - Melbourne Water Corporation (2018)	A long-term vision for managing the health of rivers, wetlands and estuaries in the Port Phillip and Westernport. It includes the framework 'Co-Designed Catchment Program for the Westernport and Mornington Peninsula Region'
Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-2027 - Melbourne Water (2024)	A guide to conserving the region's land, waters and biodiversity



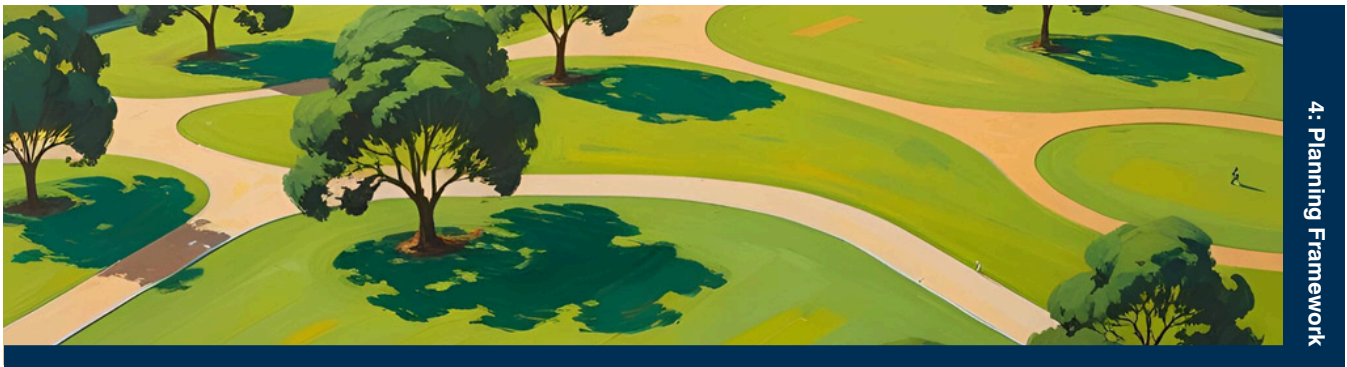
### Other Local Strategies and Plans

The Mornington Peninsula Open Space Strategy intersects with many other plans and strategies to manage and enhance the Peninsula’s open spaces in a sustainable, integrated way. Some of these include:

Policy	Description
Activity Centres Strategy (2018)	Guides commercial and mixed-use hub development. Ensures accessible public spaces in activity centres.
Arts and Culture Plan (2020)	Promotes cultural engagement. Encourages public art and cultural events in open spaces.
Asset Management Strategy (2020)	Supports long-term maintenance of open space features like playgrounds and pathways.
Asset Plan (2025/26 - 2035/36)	Ensure effective management and stewardship of the Shire's assets over the next 10 years.
Biodiversity Conservation Plan (2019)	Guides conservation, restoration, and promoting biodiversity corridors and native vegetation.
Coastal Strategy (2024)	Manages coastal areas sustainably in response to localised coastal changes and risk. Balances recreation and conservation in coastal open spaces.
Community Engagement Strategy (2020)	Guides community involvement. Integrates community input into open space planning.
Contributions Plans	Collects developer contributions for funding community infrastructure, including open spaces.
Domestic Animal Management Plan (2026 - 2029)	Manages pet ownership. Guides dog parks and pet-friendly areas within open spaces.
Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy	Encourages sustainable building and infrastructure development. Promotes eco-friendly materials and energy-efficient designs in open spaces.
Flood and Stormwater Strategy (2022)	Manages flood risks. Identifies green infrastructure and wetlands for passive recreation.
Gender Equality Strategy (2020)	Ensures open spaces are safe, comfortable, and accessible for all genders.
Integrated Water Management Plan (2021)	Promotes sustainable water use. Supports rain gardens and wetlands in open spaces.

Policy	Description
Neighbourhood Character Study and Guidelines (2019)	Defines architectural and landscape features of neighbourhoods. Aligns open spaces with local context to enhance character.
Pedestrian Access Strategy (2024)	Improves walkability. Ensures open spaces are accessible via pedestrian networks.
Planning Scheme, Mornington Peninsula	Regulates land use and zoning to protect and expand open spaces, requiring developer contributions.
Reconciliation Action Plan (2025-27)	Supports Traditional Owner reconciliation. Respects and celebrates Traditional Owner heritage in open spaces.
Recreation Facilities for BMX & MTB Strategy (2023)	Addresses demand for cycling infrastructure. Includes BMX tracks and mountain biking trails.
Reserve Masterplans and Management Plans	Provides frameworks for future development and management of reserves, balancing ecological protection with public access and recreation.
Sports Capacity Plans: Volume 1 (adopted 2019) and Volume 2 and 3 (adopted 2025)	Evaluates demand and identifies gaps in sports facilities.
Structure Plans	Sets long-term guidelines for land use and development, guiding the integration of open spaces in urban areas.
Sustainable Transport Strategy (2015)	Encourages walking, cycling, and public transport. Connects open spaces via pedestrian and cycling pathways.
Universal Design Policy	Guides the provision of inclusive and equitable access to buildings, services, employment, information, events, and public spaces.
Urban Forest Strategy (2024)	Expands tree cover and vegetation. Integrates urban greening and habitat corridors in open spaces.
Water Sensitive Asset Masterplan (2022)	Promotes sustainable water management in parks and open spaces. I.e., wetlands, rain gardens, and stormwater systems.
We All Belong Strategy: Towards an Inclusive Mornington Peninsula 2024-2029	Outlines Council’s approach to working in partnership across key life stages (children, young people, older adults) and population groups (people with disability, LGBTIQ+ and multicultural communities) over the next five years.





## 4.1 Planning Framework Overview

The framework was developed to provide a structured approach to planning, design, and management, ensuring consistency and alignment with community needs and priorities. It serves as a guiding tool to make informed decisions, prioritise actions, and evaluate options effectively. By establishing clear standards and principles, the framework ensures that open spaces are developed in a way that meets long-term goals, promotes accessibility, and reflects the values of the community, ultimately contributing to a more organised and cohesive approach to open space planning.

	<p><b>Classification System</b> Refer 4.2 - 4.4</p>	<p>The classification system identifies the core open space types and categorises them into a hierarchy. The classification system also defines the function of each open space, its benefit to the community, land characteristics and settlement type.</p>
	<p><b>Open Space Provision Standards</b> Refer 4.5</p>	<p>Provision standards focus on quantity and accessibility of open space. Provision standards describe the ideal quantity, distribution, and location of open spaces. They are designed to be used as a guide for community and investment planning and to help identify current and future needs.</p>
	<p><b>Experience Standards</b> Refer 4.6</p>	<p>Experience standards are informed by community engagement and translate community priorities and expectations into an aspirational target for how accessible each experience should be. This is represented as a recommended distance from all residential homes, ensuring equitable access to key activities and spaces, where and how they are needed the most.</p>
	<p><b>Development Standards</b> Refer 4.7</p>	<p>Development standards set the minimum requirements and guidelines for the design, construction, and functionality of parks and public spaces. These standards ensure that open spaces meet community expectations, are safe, accessible, and support a variety of recreational and leisure activities.</p>
	<p><b>Design Principles</b> Refer 4.8</p>	<p>Design principles capture what the community values most in parks, trails and natural spaces. Informed by engagement, they guide the creation of inclusive, high-quality and sustainable open spaces that are welcoming, safe and ecologically rich, now and into the future.</p>
	<p><b>Developing Service Standards</b> Refer 4.9</p>	<p>Developing clearly defined service standards (also known as maintenance standards), underpin consistent service delivery aligned with provision and experience standards, support informed decision-making, clarify costs, and provide a structured basis for open space management, review and optimisation.</p>
	<p><b>Guiding Principles</b> Refer 5.1</p>	<p>Guiding Principles provide a framework for decision-making and direction for planning, design, and management of open space. They help align goals, ensure consistency, prioritise actions, and reflect community values, serving as a benchmark for evaluating options and achieving strategic outcomes.</p>

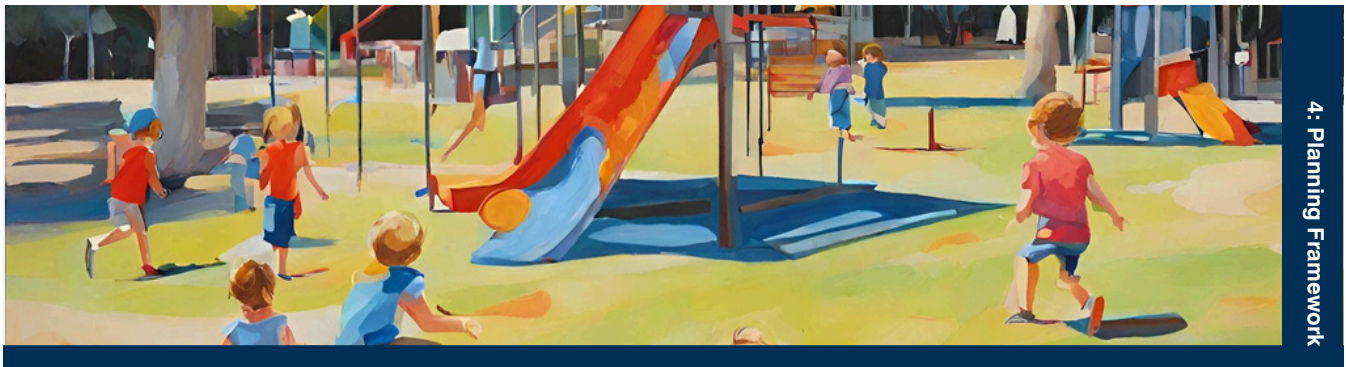


## 4.2 Open Space Hierarchy

The open space hierarchy used in this Strategy is based on anticipated length of stay, distance travelled, and the expected quality of experience. It provides a structured approach to guide the type, quantity, and standard of amenities across different open space settings.

This hierarchy has been aligned with the Framework for Classifying the Hierarchy of Public Open Space in Australia. This national framework represents a harmonisation of existing classification systems, definitions, and terminology used by local governments across Australia, and has been incorporated into DEECA’s Guide for Open Space Strategies. While broadly applicable to sport, recreation, and leisure settings, it is noted that sport-specific plans, such as the Sports Capacity Plan, may adopt alternative or more targeted language.

<p><b>Local</b></p> <p>Local spaces contribute aesthetically to the landscape and are typically used for daily recreational and leisure activities like walking the dog or playing on a playground after school. Experiences / Services that could be available include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A small playground for short, regular visits (likely most suitable for younger kids).</li> <li>• A quiet green space with trees and grass.</li> <li>• A grassy open space to kick a ball around.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Length of Stay:</b> Up to an hour</p> <p><b>Standard Size:</b> &lt;1 ha</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Romney Park</p>
<p><b>Neighbourhood</b></p> <p>Neighbourhood spaces should be large enough to accommodate multiple users and a variety of recreational activities that can occur simultaneously. Experiences / Services that could be available include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park suitable for a family / social gathering for a lunch in the park (has picnic table/s).</li> <li>• A medium size playground for regular visits, with something to offer for a range of ages.</li> <li>• A sport park with one oval / field or a small number of courts. Typically unlit, with lighting only considered on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Length of Stay:</b> 1 hour +</p> <p><b>Standard Size:</b> 1 - 5 ha</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Stringer Road Reserve, Blairgowrie</p>
<p><b>District</b></p> <p>District space are large and designed to attract a wide range of user groups for different purposes and activities. Can accommodate a variety of uses simultaneously. Experiences / Services that could be available include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A park which can host small community events such as a farmers market.</li> <li>• A large playground for a weekend or longer visits with kids of different ages and abilities (perhaps an adventure playground or water play area).</li> <li>• A sport park with multiple ovals/fields which are lit for evening play and training.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Length of Stay:</b> 2 hours +</p> <p><b>Standard Size:</b> 5 - 15 ha</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Red Hill Recreation Reserve</p>
<p><b>Regional</b></p> <p>Regional spaces are much larger spaces. They incorporate a wide range of sport, leisure and recreation activities and can accommodate simultaneous users by larger numbers of people. Experiences / Services that could be available include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A park which can host larger events such as live music or festivals.</li> <li>• A sport precinct with multiple sports facilities, more than 3 ovals/fields with a pavilion and lighting for evening play and training.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Length of Stay:</b> 2 hours +</p> <p><b>Standard Size:</b> 15+ ha</p> <p><b>Example:</b> Civic Reserve, Mornington</p>
<p><b>Restricted</b></p> <p>Public land that could provide an open space function that is not freely accessible to the community due to leases, agreements, specialised sporting infrastructure or conservation protection overlays. Access to the site is (physically) prevented at all times for public use.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> Public open space leased to a sports club with access restrictions such as fencing and attendance fee.</p>



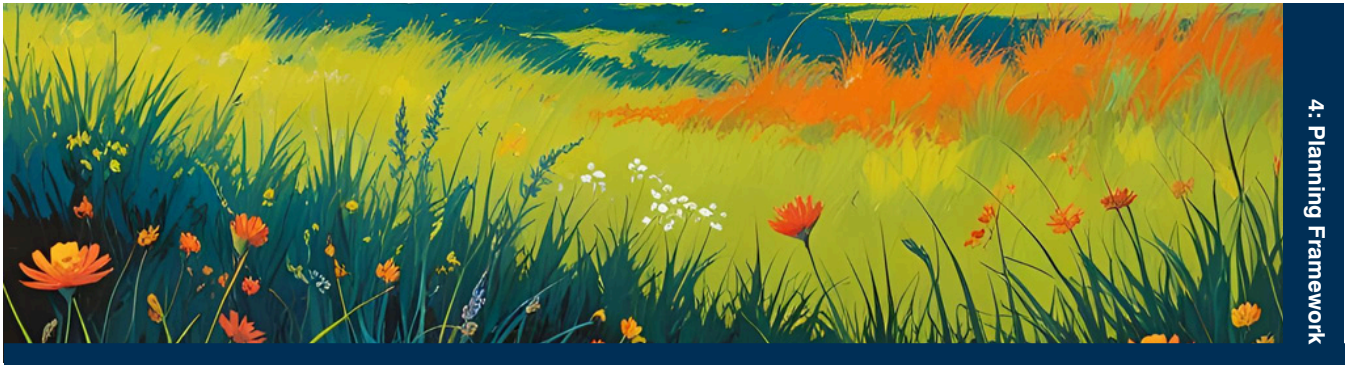
4: Planning Framework

### 4.3 Open Space Function

The 'Function' refers to the prominent programming and intended use of green open spaces, including the expected or potential activities that can take place and the benefits people are likely to gain from using the space. While open spaces provide many functions, for the purposes of this analysis a primary and secondary function is identified for each space. The following provides an overview of some of the key functions of public open space:

	<b>Recreation</b>	Sites for a variety of outdoor leisure and recreational activities, including informal play, physical activity, relaxation, and social interaction. These areas typically feature maintained lawns and irrigation.
	<b>Sport</b>	Areas designed for structured, organized sports and recreation. These sites are available for informal use when no events or training are occurring, with well-maintained playing fields.
	<b>Conservation</b>	Protected sites that enhance biodiversity and ecological processes, often featuring remnant native vegetation and wildlife. Access is managed, and some areas may be restricted. These reserves may include infrastructure like walking trails and picnic areas, or minimal facilities for nature-based recreation.
	<b>Nature</b>	Areas with remnant native vegetation and flora/fauna, offering facilities for low-impact recreational activities like walking and cycling. Few reserves are classified solely as Nature in Mornington.
	<b>Water Management</b>	Areas for the retention, storage and drainage of stormwater.
	<b>Linking</b>	Narrow sites that serve as movement corridors for pedestrians or cyclists, often located along waterways or roads, and may include paths or trails.
	<b>Coastline</b>	Land along the coast, typically featuring natural areas with low-impact recreational activities like walking and cycling. Coastal reserves are often managed as bushland with a primary conservation classification and secondary coastline use.
	<b>Other</b>	Other public land with open space potential that can also provide an important recreation role in providing green-space to a community.

Illustration Source: A National Framework for Classifying the Function of Green Public Open Space in Australia. Hooper, P & Edwards, N. (2024). Edith Cowan University & The University of Western Australia



## 4.4 Landscape Character

The 'Landscape Character' of the open space refers to the experience offered and the maintenance / management required. Each site has at least one primary landscape character and most sites have more than one. The following provides an overview of some of the key types of landscape types for public open space.













<p><b>Grassy Open Space (Sport)</b></p> 	<p>Large open areas of maintained, irrigated and mowed lawn areas for sport.</p>	<p><b>Coastal Nature</b></p> 	<p>Directly adjacent to the coast and/or situated in a coastal foreshore planted with dense indigenous coastal shrubbery.</p>
<p><b>Grassy Open Space (Recreation)</b></p> 	<p>Large open areas of maintained, occasionally irrigated and mowed lawn areas for recreation.</p>	<p><b>Native Grassland</b></p> 	<p>Natural, non-landscaped areas of indigenous vegetation, dominated by grasses but also containing groundcovers and shrubs.</p>
<p><b>Treed Parkland</b></p> 	<p>Areas of maintained, mown lawn areas with trees distributed throughout, creating scattered canopy cover.</p>	<p><b>Native Vegetation</b></p> 	<p>Natural, non-landscaped areas vegetated with indigenous shrubs and trees.</p>
<p><b>Formal Garden</b></p> 	<p>Ornamental arrangements of plants, shrubs, trees, and garden beds, featuring exotic species. May include irrigation, paving, sculptures, and aesthetic elements i.e. cemeteries.</p>	<p><b>Water Sensitive Urban Design</b></p> 	<p>Bioswales, constructed wetlands, retarding basins and other systems designed to manage and treat rainwater using vegetation.</p>
<p><b>Hardscaped</b></p> 	<p>Areas of gravel, asphalt or pavement in the form of sporting courts</p>	<p><b>Riparian Nature</b></p> 	<p>Directly adjacent to or located within the riverbank; Direct access from the space to the river (water) is possible with no barriers impeding access (i.e., roads).</p>
<p><b>Undeveloped</b></p> 	<p>Rough informal areas that are degraded, unmanaged or not designed, and which is not fenced or protected for conservation purposes.</p>	<p><b>Wetland</b></p> 	<p>Spaces with significant areas of land where the soil is saturated with and covered by water permanently or seasonally.</p>

Illustration Source: A National Framework for Classifying the Function of Green Public Open Space in Australia. Hooper, P & Edwards, N. (2024). Edith Cowan University & The University of Western Australia



## 4.5 Provision Standards

### Understanding Provision Standards

The open space provision standards in this Strategy are based on an adapted Open Space Hierarchy (see Section 4.2), informed by community feedback about the types of experiences residents value and how far they are willing to travel to access open spaces.

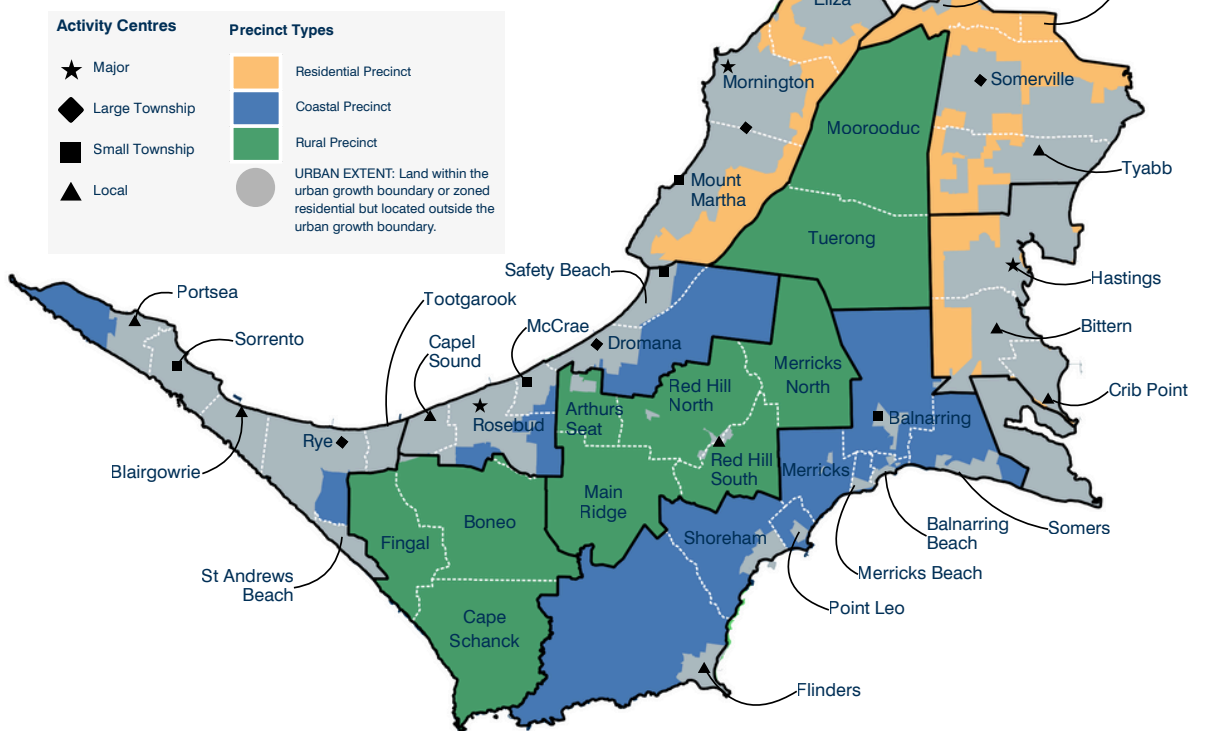
Provision is assessed using both population-based ratios and access-based benchmarks, such as ensuring parks are within a 400-metre walk of residents in urban areas. While these benchmarks offer a helpful planning framework, they must be balanced with local factors such as geography, population density, leisure trends and demographic change.

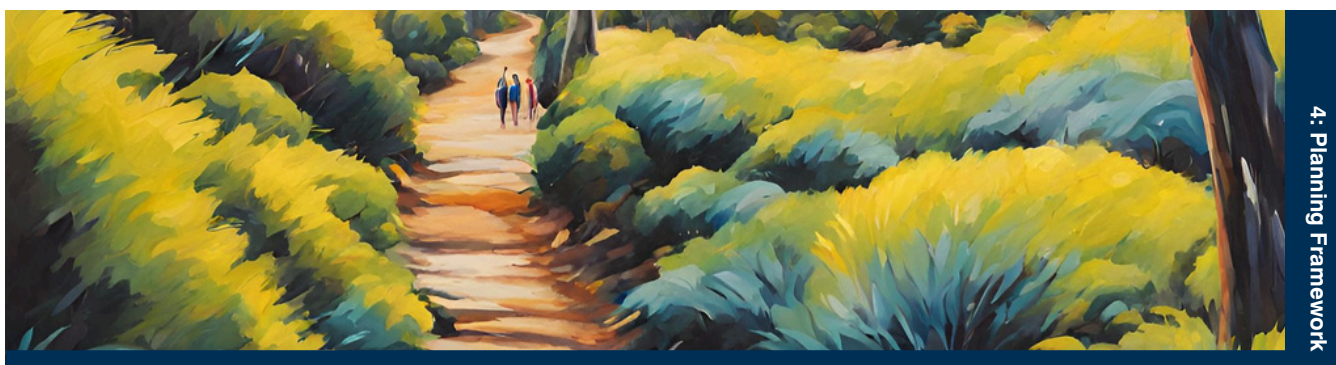
Given Mornington Peninsula Shire's diverse landscapes and settlement patterns, the provision standards are described for three 'precinct types' to guide equitable and effective provision given different urban form, transportation patterns and unique needs.

### Provision variations across Council Strategies

This Strategy takes a whole-of-community, recreation-focused approach to open space, prioritising access, diversity, and informal use. In contrast, sport-specific plans like the Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1-3 (2025) concentrate on formal sporting infrastructure, competition needs, and growth of specific codes. While both approaches complement each other, differences in provision standards and priorities may arise because of their distinct objectives.

The Open Space Strategy aims to deliver a balanced, inclusive network for all users, whereas sport-specific plans focus on supporting organised sport participation and performance.



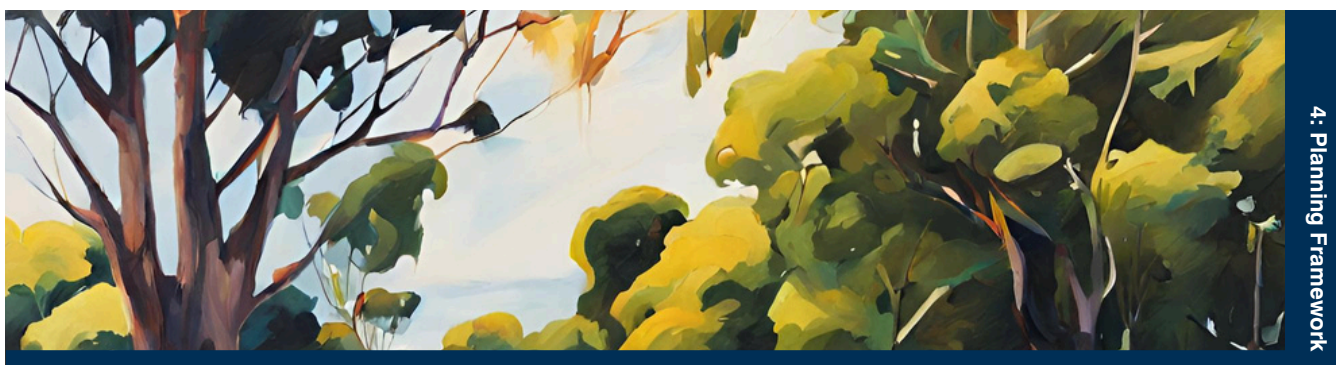


### Open Space Provision Standards and Targets

Central to this strategy is the establishment of clear open space provision standards and targets, which guide the size, type, and distribution of open spaces according to the hierarchy (described in 4.2 above).

The following table sets out standards and targets in response to the open space hierarchy, to assist with planning, delivery, and management of the open space network. The thresholds have been informed by community engagement and the Open Space Community Assembly.

Hierarchy	Description / Guideline	Application / Catchment	Precinct Types		
			Coastal	Residential	Rural
<b>Total Open Space Provision</b>	Standard open space ratio per head of population, varying based on community needs and land constraints		Minimum 30sqm per person		
<b>Local Parks</b>	Provides basic recreational facilities such as playgrounds and seating	Everyday day use within walking distance	800m	400m	1 Multifunctional reserve per precinct
<b>Neighbourhood Parks</b>	Larger parks offering diverse recreational opportunities, including sports courts	Serves neighbourhood-level activity	1km	800m	
<b>District Recreation</b>	Multi-functional parks with a wider range of activities and community spaces	Serves multiple neighbourhoods	2km	1.5km	
<b>District Sport</b>	A sport park with two + ovals/fields which are lit for evening play and training	Serves multiple neighbourhoods	5km	2km	1 sport reserve per precinct
<b>Regional Parks</b>	Major open spaces providing diverse recreation, conservation, and tourism functions	Regionally significant parks which draw use from outside the municipality	Shire wide provision		
<b>Conservation and Nature Reserves</b>	Areas protected for environmental significance and passive recreation	Located strategically for biodiversity maintenance	As required for biodiversity and landscape protection		
<b>Linking: Linear Parks and Greenways</b>	Connected corridors linking parks, waterways, and key destinations	Enhances connectivity across suburbs and regions	Integrated into open space networks, along natural corridors		

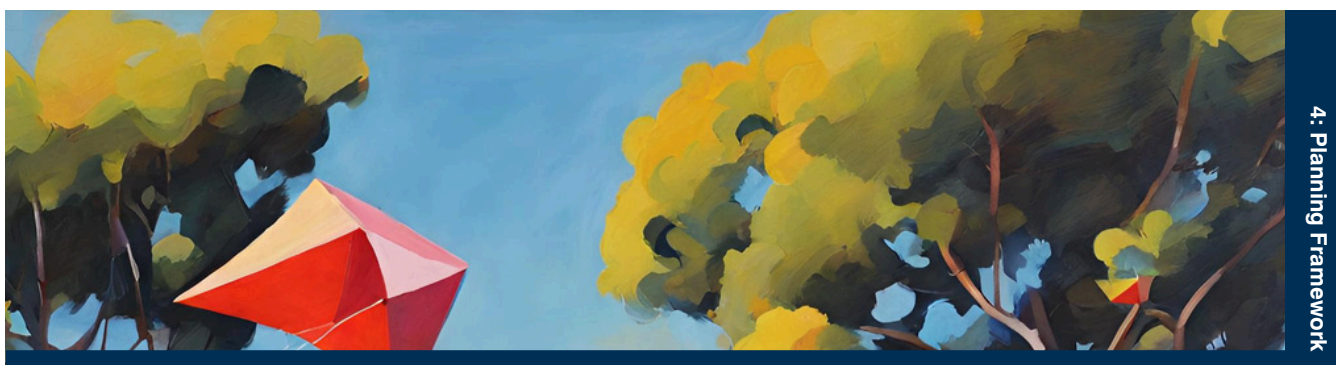


## 4.6 Experience Standards

Developed through community engagement, experience standards reflect local priorities and set aspirational targets for how accessible each type of open space experience should be.

They are expressed as recommended distances from all homes to support equitable access, but may vary depending on the park, precinct, and existing infrastructure.

Open Space Experiences	Description	Minimum Service Catchment Standard (Aspirational Target) by Precinct Type		
		Coastal	Residential	Rural
<b>Cycling / Shared Trails</b>	Key corridors that connect major destinations such as town centres, schools, parks, and transport hubs. Designed to support safe, continuous cycling and walking journeys and facilitate both recreation and active transport	1 km	1 km	5km
<b>Children's Play</b>	Areas with a higher proportion of medium density residential, and town centres have access to a medium sized (or larger) playground with universal design elements	1km	500 m	1 per town
<b>Gathering Spaces</b>	Including grass kick-about spaces, play space, and public amenities	1km	400 m	1 per town
<b>Casual Active Recreation</b>	Multifunctional casual recreation space with activity amenities (such as a half court, hit up wall, climbing wall, or outdoor exercise equipment)	1km	1km	
<b>Dedicated Dog Off-Leash Areas</b>	Town centres include an open space which accommodates dogs off-leash, where feasible	1 per town	1km	
<b>Places to Relax and Unwind</b>	Quiet areas within existing reserves or new parks to enjoy views and attractive landscapes	400m	400 m	5km
<b>Events and Festival Spaces</b>	With three-phase power, parking, and quality grass areas	20km		
<b>Natural Area with a Walking Trail</b>	Unrestricted natural area (open space with 'native vegetation' or similar landscape character, MPSC or PV managed) with trail for recreational use such as bushland, coast or creek line	400m	800 m	5km
<b>Evening Sport Activity</b>	A sport park with two + ovals/fields which are lit for evening play and training (District / Regional)	10km	10k m	1 per precinct



## 4.7 Development Standards

These standards provide a guide to support consistent and high-quality open space provision. Developed through community engagement and aligned with the planning framework, they outline typical asset provision by open space hierarchy and function.

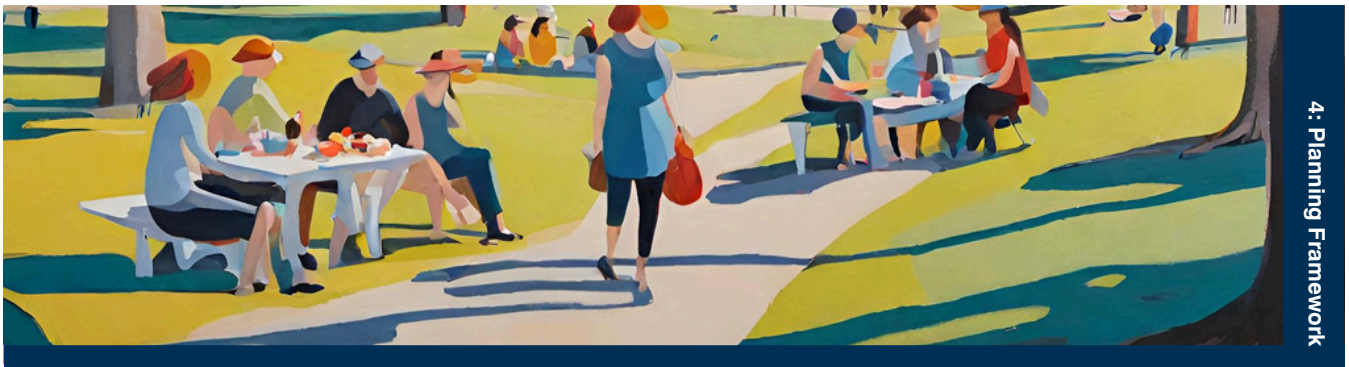
The standards are not prescriptive. Local context, site conditions, and community needs may mean they need to be adapted or not fully applied in all cases. For example, the "May have" provision is enacted when an asset's inclusion is guided by local needs, community preferences, or specific site conditions that support its relevance and suitability. These classifications should be applied with professional judgment and community input during the planning and design process.

<b>Y</b>	<b>Must have:</b> Essential element expected in all open spaces of this type.
<b>M</b>	<b>May have:</b> Asset might be included depending on local needs, community preferences, or site-specific opportunities and constraints.
<b>N</b>	<b>Must not have:</b> Asset that is not appropriate for this open space type due to its function, location, or intended use.

Asset	Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional	Neighbourhood	District	Regional	Conservation	Linking	
	Recreation				Sport			*encompasses all hierarchies		
<b>Play/ informal recreation</b>	Large playground (all ages) offering a diversity of play opportunities and themes, high quality	N	N	M	Y	N	N	M	N	N
	Medium playground (pre-primary school ages)	N	M	Y	Y	M	M	M	N	N
	Small playground (limited age group (e.g. pre school or primary school)	Y	N	N	N	M	M	M	N	N
	Skate park / BMX or pump track	N	N	M	M	N	M	M	N	N
	Half ball court	N	N	M	Y	M	M	M	N	N
	Fitness equipment	N	N	M	M	N	N	M	N	M
<b>Gathering</b>	Gathering spaces (seating for large groups approximately 10 +)	N	N	M	Y	N	M	Y	M	N
	Seat / bench (at least 1)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M
	BBQs	N	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	N
	Picnic tables (concrete pad)	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M
	Shade structure	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
	Public / event use zone power (e.g. markets / concerts)	N	N	M	M	N	N	M	N	N



Asset	Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional	Neighbourhood	District	Regional	Conservation <small>*encompasses all hierarchies</small>	Linking
	Recreation				Sport				
<b>Dogs</b>	Dog area fenced / park with agility								
<b>Paths</b>	Paths - unsealed								
	Paths - sealed								
	Paths - circuit								
<b>Signage</b>	Signage - wayfinding & interpretive								
	Signage - regulatory								
<b>Landscape</b>	Trees (maximise shade over playgrounds, seating & activity nodes)								
	Garden beds								
	Irrigated turf								
<b>Other</b>	Water management (Water Sensitive Urban Design)								
	Bicycle racks								
	Drinking fountains								
	Lighting								
	Public toilets								
	Car parking on site								
	Rubbish bins								



## 4.8 Open Space Design Principles

The following design principles reflect what the community values most in its parks, trails and natural spaces.

They respond to key themes heard through engagement and provide a foundation for creating high quality, inclusive and sustainable open spaces. These principles will guide the planning, design and improvement of open spaces across the Shire to ensure they are welcoming, safe, ecologically rich and supportive of community life, now and into the future.

### 1 Accessible and Inclusive for All



Design open spaces that are welcoming, safe, and usable by people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

- Provide continuous, accessible paths of travel that support use by people using mobility aids, prams, and wheelchairs
- Incorporate universal design features such as varied seating, clear signage, and accessible toilets
- Include sensory play and quiet areas for neurodiverse users
- Design for intergenerational use, supporting both play and relaxation
- Seek to create culturally safe spaces, specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

### 2 Strengthening Community Connection



Foster a sense of belonging and cultural expression through inclusive, welcoming spaces that reflect local identity.

- Celebrate Bunurong culture and knowledge through public art, storytelling, and interpretation
- Provide spaces for community events, farmers' markets, and informal gatherings
- Embed local history, community values, and creative expression in design
- Include features that support social connection, like BBQs, picnic settings, meeting points, and community gardens

### 3 Environmentally Sustainable and Biodiverse



Design open spaces in line with Open Space Design Principles to protect and enhance natural systems, support healthy water flow and drainage, and strengthen long-term environmental resilience.

- Preserve and restore native vegetation, waterways and habitat
- Choose indigenous and climate-resilient plants
- Maximise permeable surfaces to support healthy soil function, infiltration and site drainage
- Apply water-sensitive urban design (e.g. rain gardens, swales) to manage stormwater within open space
- Use durable, low-impact materials and minimise long-term energy, water and emissions use

### 4 Safe, Comfortable and Well-Maintained



Ensure all open spaces feel safe and comfortable and are maintained to a high standard to encourage regular use.

- Improve visibility and sightlines within parks and along paths
- Provide lighting along key trails and gathering areas to support safety
- Design out opportunities for anti-social behaviour through passive surveillance
- Ensure regular maintenance of paths, signage, bins, seating and landscaping, incorporating climate-adaptive features such as trees with large spreading canopies and water sensitive design



### 5 Youth-Focused and Future Ready



Respond to the needs and aspirations of young people through spaces that are active, engaging, and educational.

- Design youth-oriented features such as climbing walls, parkour, BMX/skate, and outdoor fitness
- Provide spaces for exploration and learning through nature-based play and trails
- Ensure teen-friendly zones that support socialising and physical activity
- Involve young people in the co-design of new and upgraded open spaces

### 6 Dog-Friendly and Respectful Shared Use



Balance the needs of dog owners and other users through clear guidance, designated spaces, and responsible management, aligned with the Dogs in Public Places Policy and Design Guidelines.

- Provide off-leash areas close to township homes
- Use signage, fencing, and education to support pet owner responsibility
- Set clear rules for safe and shared use
- Include bins, water bowls, and shaded seating
- Tailor leash-free areas to each site's unique context and surrounding land use

### 7 Connected and Multi-Functional



Design a network of flexible, well-connected spaces that encourage walking, cycling, play, and informal recreation.

- Prioritise safe, continuous walking and cycling connections to parks and trails
- Create looped trails and circuits for short walks, dog walking, and exercise
- Integrate casual sports features like hit-up walls, half courts, and open kickabout space
- Enable flexible use through adaptable park layouts that support events and changing needs

### 8 Balanced Experiences Across the Shire



Ensure a diverse and well-distributed range of open space experiences that reflect the Shire's unique character and meet the varied needs of its communities.

- Provide a mix of open space types from quiet natural retreats to lively community hubs
- Ensure each township has access to core open space types: natural areas, casual recreation, family-friendly parks, and dog zones
- Tailor park design to local context, character, and community use patterns
- Identify and prioritise upgrades in areas with poor access, low amenity, or underutilised spaces
- Monitor park performance to guide equitable investment and continuous improvement



## 4.9 Developing Service Standards (Maintenance Standards)

### The Importance of Maintenance Standards

Open spaces across the Mornington Peninsula are highly valued for recreation, relaxation, and connecting with nature. Community feedback highlights the importance of clean, safe, and well-maintained parks for people of all ages and abilities. Good maintenance supports accessibility, protects the environment, and ensures parks remain welcoming and functional.

To meet community expectations, the Shire has established detailed maintenance standards embedded within both the Open Space Maintenance Contract and the Bushland Management Contract. These standards set clear service levels and ensure consistent, high-quality care across the open space network.

The Open Space Maintenance Contract covers the upkeep of sports fields, gardens, cemeteries, playgrounds, skate and bike facilities, parks, general open space areas, garden beds, fencing, park furniture, signage and beach cleaning.

The Bushland Management Contract focuses on protecting and enhancing biodiversity, reducing fire risk and supporting the efforts of volunteer groups. It applies across more than 270 bushland, foreshore and roadside reserves throughout the municipality.

The service standards should align with all laws and applicable codes of practice, Standards, Shire Policies, including industry best practice and aim to:

- Keep open spaces maintained consistently and efficiently
- Meet community expectations for quality and appearance
- Provide clarity on what services are delivered, how often, and to what standard
- Support better decision-making and resource planning.
- Improve cost management and transparency
- Guide monitoring and service improvements
- Maintain financial sustainability over time
- Show where lower or higher maintenance is appropriate
- Ensure parks are safe, functional, and enjoyable for everyone

### Service Objectives

To create effective maintenance service standards, it's important to first set objectives that reflect what the community values and that enhance the way people experience parks. The example objectives in the following table can be adapted and expanded to suit the needs of the Mornington Peninsula community. Once the objectives are agreed on, maintenance schedules and frequencies can be developed to meet them. This approach helps balance quality, enjoyment, and long-term affordability across the open space network.

#### Example of Maintenance Service Standards for Mornington Peninsula Shire

Service Area	Service Objectives (Example)
<b>Grass</b>	Mowing must be completed in all designated Parks, Recreation Reserves, Bushland, Foreshore Reserves and Roadside Areas in accordance with specified frequencies available for community on the Shire's website to manage unsightly appearance affecting amenity.
<b>Garden</b>	Shire garden beds are maintained as necessary to ensure the health and amenity of vegetation including monthly maintenance of garden beds, mulch replacement, allowance for garden bed refurbishment and perennial and annual garden bed planting.
<b>Trees</b>	Inspection and assessment of vegetation and the planning and referral of any required works, to manage vegetation safety risk and preserve tree structure, health and visual amenity.
<b>Park Furniture</b>	Furniture is maintained to ensure that furniture is functioning as intended and in good condition, cleared of any debris or waste, cleaned and sanitized and when reported or observed stickers are removed.



### Maintenance Types

Effective maintenance of parks and open spaces requires a clear understanding of the different types of maintenance tasks and how service levels vary based on park use and community needs. This helps ensure parks remain safe, attractive, and enjoyable, while also managing resources efficiently.

#### Routine vs Planned Maintenance

Operational service includes both routine tasks and planned maintenance. Routine tasks like mowing, weed control, and litter collection happen regularly to keep parks clean, safe, and looking good. Planned maintenance includes jobs like fixing irrigation, renovating turf, or resurfacing paths. These are done as needed when assets show wear or damage. Both types are important but are managed differently to use resources wisely and keep parks in good shape.

#### Responsive vs Scheduled Maintenance

Maintenance also includes scheduled and responsive tasks. Scheduled maintenance is planned and happens regularly, such as mowing and garden care. Responsive maintenance deals with unexpected problems like storm damage, vandalism, or removing dangerous branches. Scheduled maintenance keeps things consistent, while responsive maintenance handles urgent issues to keep parks safe and usable. Both are essential for good park management.

### Maintenance Hierarchies

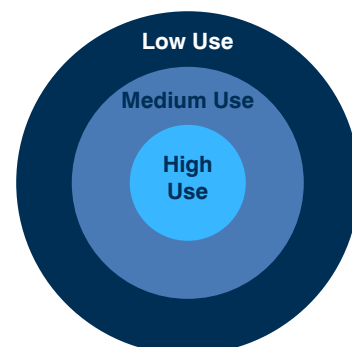
Maintenance levels vary depending on how much a park is used. Parks with more visitors need higher maintenance to stay safe, clean and functional. These parks often have more complex features such as large playgrounds, sports areas, barbecues or gardens that need extra care. Usually, three to four quality levels are enough to show these differences. For example, regional parks receive the highest level of care, district parks receive a moderate level, and neighbourhood or local parks have a lower level of maintenance. This tiered approach helps manage costs while meeting community expectations by focusing resources where they are most needed.

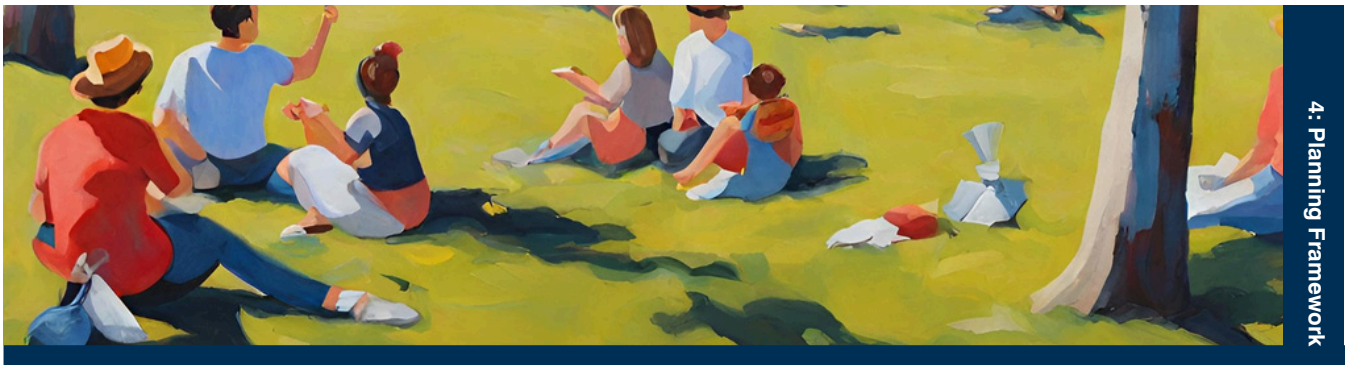
### Conservation and Bushland Areas

Some conservation and bushland reserves are intentionally maintained with a 'wild' character to protect natural habitats. In these areas, regular mowing and intensive maintenance may be limited.

Maintenance standards are adapted accordingly to balance ecological preservation with public access and safety, ensuring appropriate service levels across different open space types.

- Low Use**  
Most sites: basic level of maintenance
- Medium Use**  
A medium number of sites: standard level of service
- High Use**  
Smallest number of sites: highest level of maintenance





## 4.10 Assessing Land for Open Space Acquisition

The Mornington Peninsula Shire recognises the importance of strategically acquiring land to expand, connect and enhance the open space network.

This section sets out clear criteria to determine whether land proposed for acquisition whether through purchase, subdivision, or developer contribution is suitable for inclusion as public open space.

These criteria align with:

- Clause 56.05-2 (Public Open Space Provision Objectives) of the Victorian Planning Provisions
- Clause 53.01 (Public Open Space Contributions and Subdivision)
- Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
- Local Government Act 2020 (asset and land management responsibilities)
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Victorian Guide for Open Space Strategies (under development)

### Land That Will Not Be Accepted

Council generally will not accept land that:

- Is residual, fragmented, or intended solely to meet planning compliance
- Serves only a drainage function, with no recreational or ecological value
- Is entirely within a floodway or lacks safe, accessible entry
- Transfers long-term risk, cost, or liability to Council without clear community benefit
- Is likely to be significantly impacted by known climate hazards
- Is wholly constrained by flooding, erosion, or steep terrain, unless forming part of an integrated parkland with usable open space

### Future-Proofing Land Acquisitions

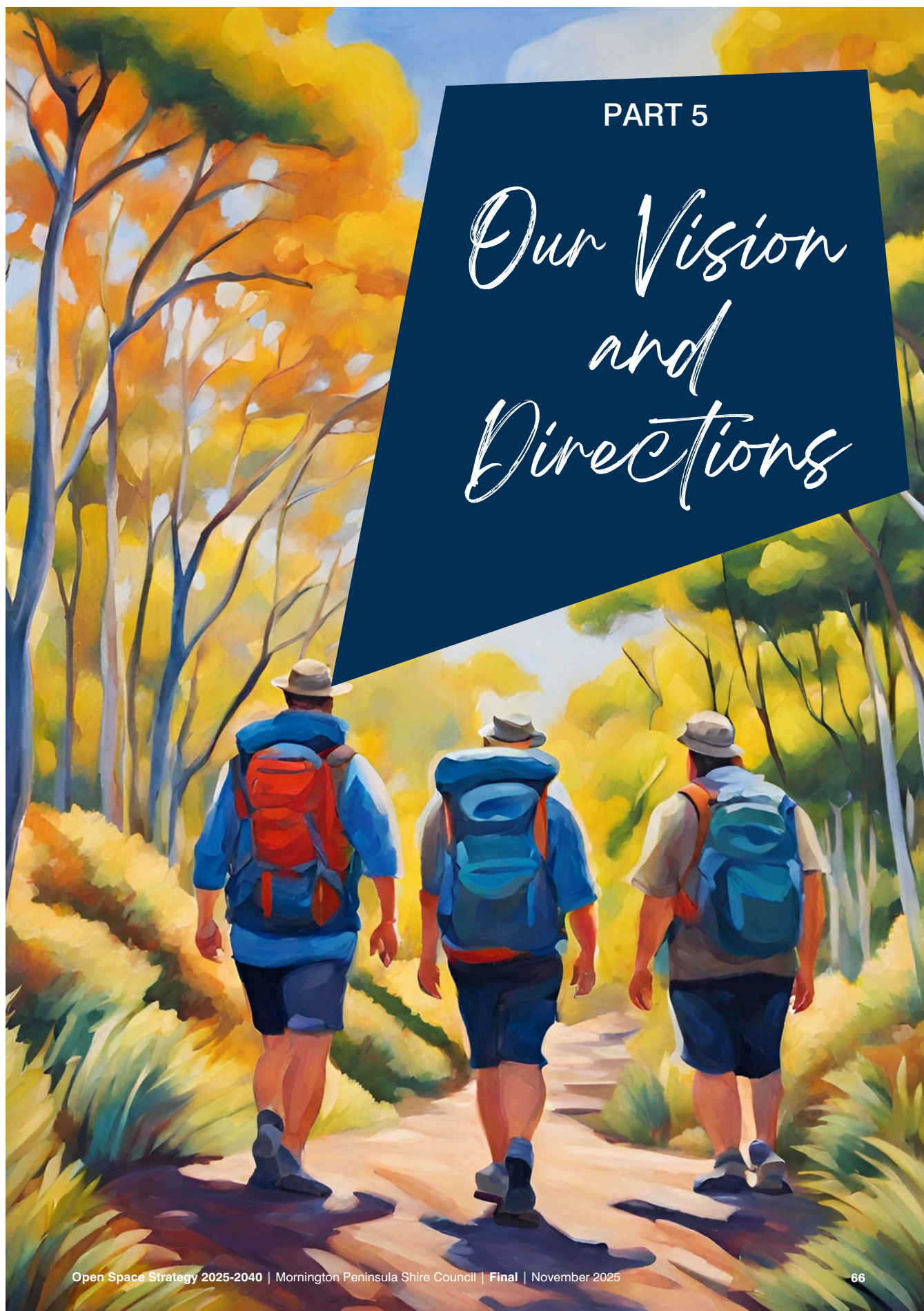
Where possible, sites should:

- Accommodate future amenities (toilets, picnic shelters, shared paths)
- Support climate resilience: incorporate shade, water retention, and tree canopy targets
- Be identified within Precinct Structure Plans, Township Plans, or Open Space Contribution Frameworks to align with long-term land use planning

### Minimum Suitability Criteria

Land must meet the following minimum characteristics to be considered suitable as public open space:

1. Accessibility
  - Direct frontage to a public road with safe, legible pedestrian access
  - Within a 400–800m walkable catchment of the local population
  - Universally accessible or capable of being made DDA-compliant
  - Accessible by public and active transport
2. Size and Shape
  - Minimum area thresholds (indicative and context-dependent):
    - Local park: minimum 3,000–5,000 m<sup>2</sup>
    - Neighbourhood park: minimum 1 ha
    - District park or sports reserve: minimum 5 ha
  - Functional shape (not narrow strips or fragmented land)
  - Accommodates intended use, landscaping, and infrastructure (e.g. furniture, shade)
3. Topography and Usability
  - Generally gently sloping land (preferably with a maximum grade of 1:6)
  - At least 70% of the site must be usable for recreational or environmental purpose
  - Highly visible with good passive surveillance
4. Environmental Condition and Encumbrances
  - Free from contamination, invasive weeds, and hazards
  - Not limited by services, easements, or planning overlays
  - Supports biodiversity, ecological links, and WSUD
  - Enhances local landscape and visual amenity
5. Strategic and Community Value
  - Addresses gaps identified in open space planning
  - Located in a growth area or under-served neighbourhood
  - Aligns with Council goals for resilience, equity, heritage, or culture
  - Surrounded by compatible land uses





## *Community Vision*

“Welcome (Wominjeka) to the Mornington Peninsula, bound by green spaces and sea. We honour and pay respects to the Traditional Owners of this beautiful land – the Bunurong peoples. We also pay our deepest respects to their Ancestors and Elders.

We are inspired to protect and enhance our distinct region that values its diverse community, environments and townships. Our community spirit thrives, with safe, accessible and inclusive spaces for all. Together we continue to create a sustainable, vibrant and prosperous future that values innovation and shared compassion.”



## 5.1 Shared Vision and Principles

### Shared Vision

This vision, shaped by community engagement, has evolved alongside the development of the strategy to reflect the community's values, aspirations, and long-term goals for open space on the Mornington Peninsula.

**A connected, vibrant and thriving open space network that celebrates nature, culture, and community.**

Accessible and sustainable, these spaces will foster recreation, connection, and environmental stewardship, ensuring future generations experience the beauty and heritage that define our region.

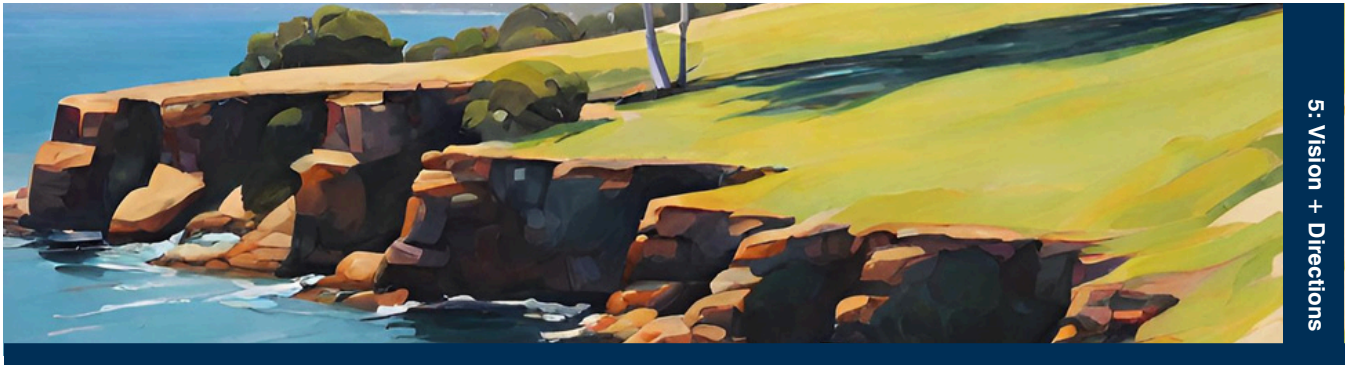
### Guiding Principles

Developed with the community, these principles form a decision-making framework that aligns goals, prioritises actions, ensures consistency, reflects values, and guides strategic outcomes.

The guiding principles are essential for guiding decisions and provide a framework for decision-making and direction for planning, design, and management of open space, ensuring sustainability, promoting equity and inclusiveness, and achieving long-term community and environmental benefits. They help create a clear, consistent approach to planning and managing open spaces that aligns with both local needs and broader shire objectives.

The principles are aligned with the Melbourne Metropolitan Open Space Strategic Framework: Direction 1: Protect our inherited open space legacy, Direction 2: Optimise the open space network and Direction 3: Grow the open space network.





**VISION**

**A connected, vibrant and thriving open space network that celebrates nature, culture, and community.**

Accessible and sustainable, these spaces will foster recreation, connection, and environmental stewardship, ensuring future generations experience the beauty and heritage that define our region.

DIRECTION	PRINCIPLE	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>PEOPLE FIRST + FIRST PEOPLE</b></p>	<p><b>CORE VALUE</b> Be user centric and engaging of all people</p>	<p><b>Principle 1: Community Involvement</b> Involve residents and stakeholders in planning processes and maintain transparent communication to reflect collective goals. Partner and collaborate with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Traditional Owners, community, and stakeholders to co-design and manage open space.</p>
		<p><b>Principle 2: Traditional Owner and Cultural Values</b> Ensure open spaces support reconciliation. Recognise Bunurong peoples' ongoing connection to Country by protecting cultural sites, reflect and respect the area's Traditional Owner cultural and environmental heritage, while incorporating Traditional Owner's knowledge into the management and preservation of natural spaces.</p>
<p><b>PROTECT</b></p>	<p>Protect our inherited open space legacy</p>	<p><b>Principle 3: Climate Resilience and Readiness</b> Focus on climate adaptation and risk management to ensure the long-term sustainability of our open spaces, coastlines, and ecosystems. Prioritise actions that reduce climate vulnerability and prepare communities for increasing environmental hazards.</p>
		<p><b>Principle 4: Environmental Leadership</b> Enhance environmental outcomes by preserving natural areas, growing biodiversity, using sustainable and circular materials, and incorporating climate-adaptive features. Design cool, green spaces with large canopy trees and integrate green and water-sensitive infrastructure to reduce environmental impacts.</p>
<p><b>GROW</b></p>	<p>Grow the open space network</p>	<p><b>Principle 5: Quality of Life, Health and Wellbeing</b> Ensure open spaces enhance physical and mental health by promoting active lifestyles, reducing stress, and fostering social connections. Plan for open space in line with urban growth by identifying, expanding, and enhancing land, parks, trails, and waterway corridors. Ensure vibrant, walkable, and connected communities through accessible and adaptable spaces.</p>
		<p><b>Principle 6: Equity, Inclusivity and Adaptability</b> Ensure all residents have equitable access to open spaces, with inclusive designs that accommodate people of all ages, genders, abilities, economic status, and cultural backgrounds. Spaces that are multifunctional and adaptable, ensuring they meet the diverse needs of the community.</p>
<p><b>OPTIMISE</b></p>	<p>Optimise the open space network</p>	



## 5.2 Our Directions

The strategy focusses on three key objectives for the future of open space on the Peninsula: Protect, Grow and Optimise. These goals aim to safeguard our natural and cultural heritage, expand the network to meet the needs of a growing community and improve the quality and accessibility of existing spaces. Each objective provides a clear framework for preserving, expanding, and enhancing open spaces to ensure they continue to serve future generations.

### Key Directions for Mornington Peninsula Open Space

**PROTECT**  
Protect our  
inherited open  
space legacy

**Preserve natural and cultural heritage, biodiversity, and sensitive ecosystems.**

This includes safeguarding heritage sites, conserving native vegetation, protecting critical habitats like Ramsar wetlands, and ensuring open spaces are not lost to development.

**GROW**  
Grow the  
open space  
network

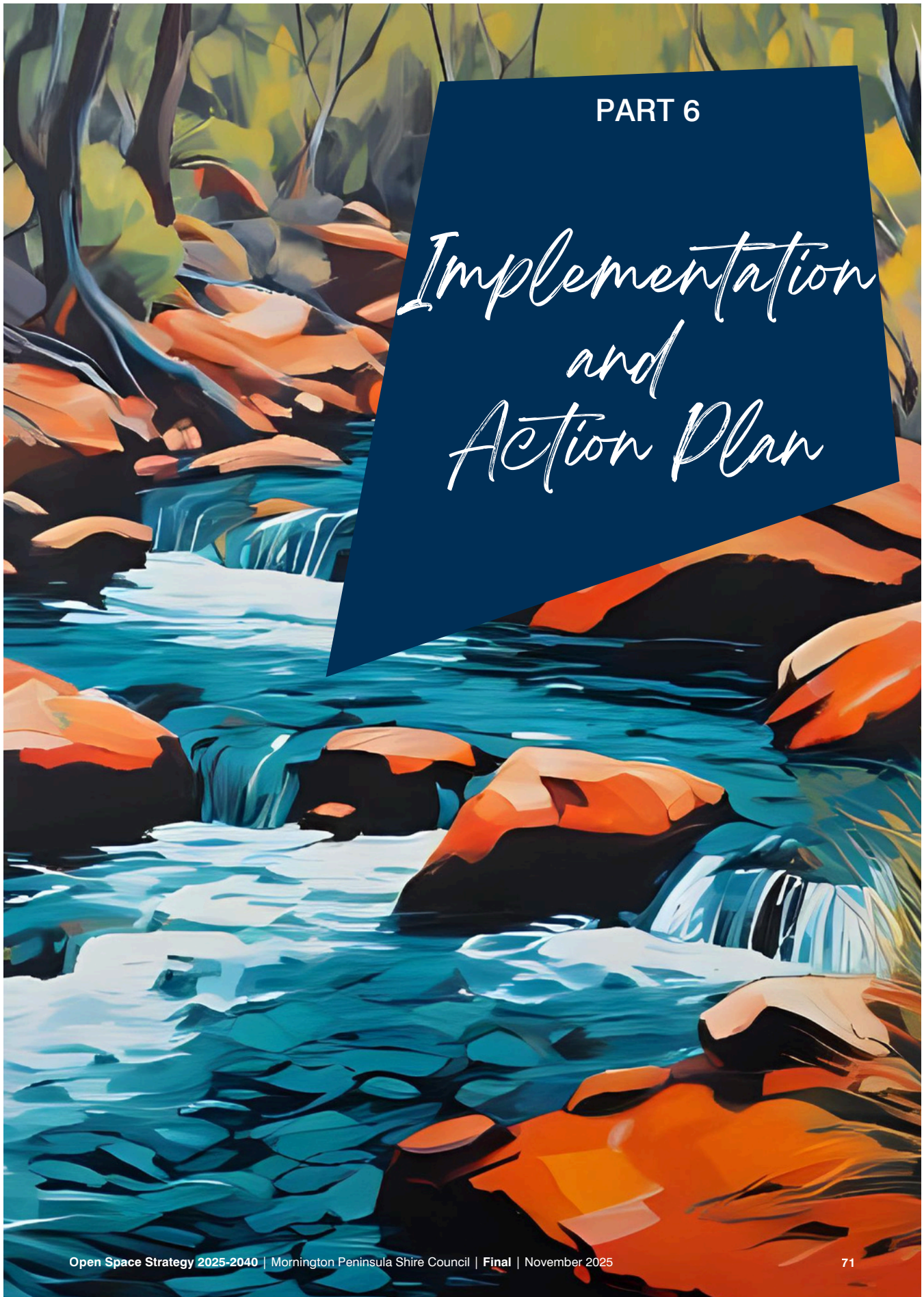
**Expand the network of open spaces by creating new parks and green areas.**

This focuses on increasing the quantity of open space available to the community and improving connectivity between these areas.

**OPTIMISE**  
Optimise the  
open space  
network

**Enhance the quality and functionality of existing open spaces.**

This includes improving infrastructure, increasing climate resilience, managing stormwater effectively, planting more trees to increase canopy cover, and ensuring spaces are accessible, well-maintained, and used to their fullest potential.



PART 6

*Implementation  
and  
Action Plan*

# 6.1 Implementation and Action Plan

## *From Plan to Practice*





## Turning Plan into Practice and Strategy into Coordinated, Long-Term Delivery

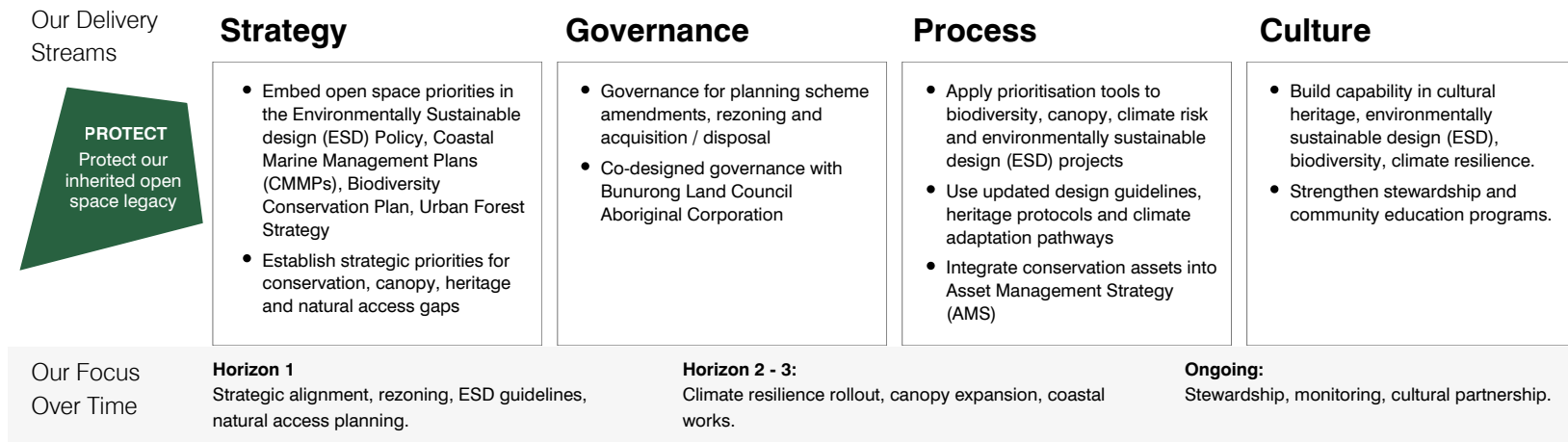
The Implementation and Action Plan translates the Strategy's vision, principles and directions into a coordinated program of staged delivery.

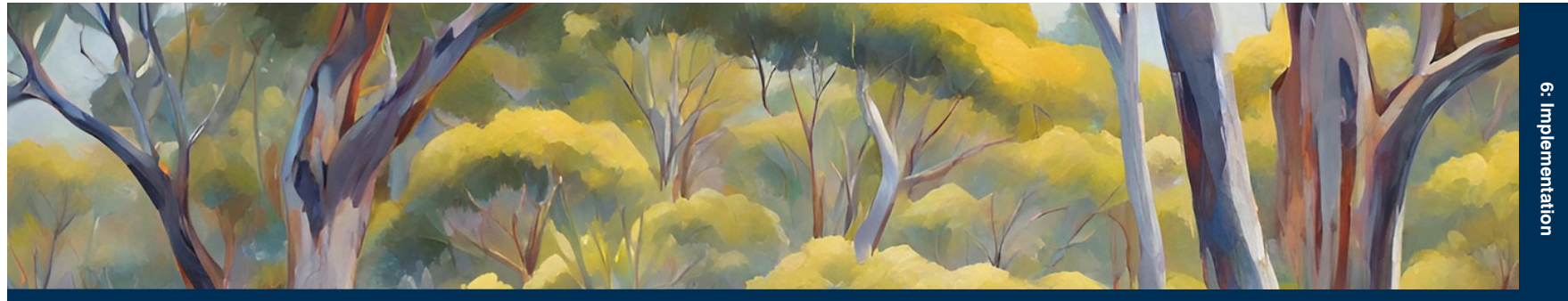
It sets out the actions, responsibilities, sequencing and tools required to protect the Shire's inherited open space legacy, grow the network, and optimise the quality and accessibility of existing spaces over the next 15 years.

The plan is structured around three strategic Directions, Protect, Grow and Optimise, and is supported by four enabling planes that make implementation possible: Strategy, Governance, Process and Culture.

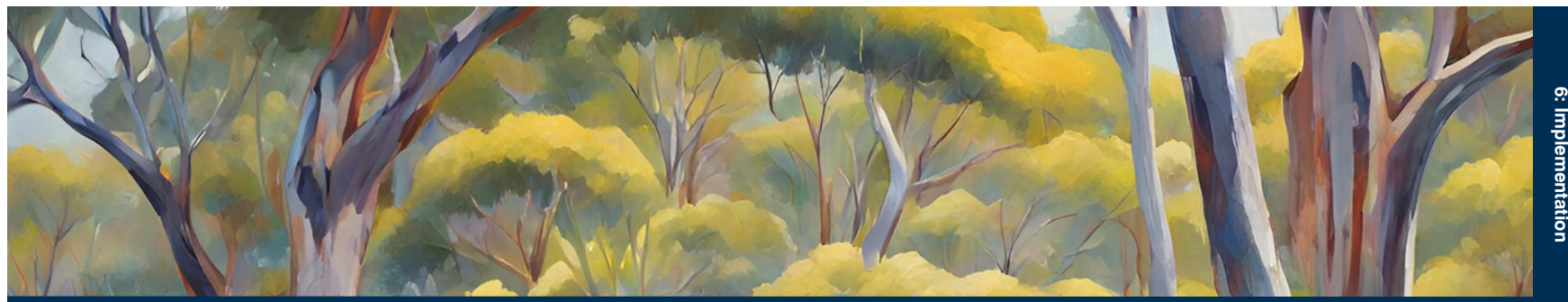
Together, these elements ensure delivery is strategic, coordinated, evidence-based and embedded across Council.

The following provides a high-level overview of the strategic focus areas aligned with the implementation planes and delivery horizons.





Our Delivery Streams	Strategy	Governance	Process	Culture	
<p><b>GROW</b> Grow the open space network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align acquisition priorities with Housing and Settlement Strategy, Plan for Victoria, Property Strategy and activity centre planning</li> <li>Identify walkability gaps and growth areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalise Disposal, Acquisition and Reallocation processes</li> <li>Strengthen contribution governance and financial transparency</li> <li>Establish shared-use arrangements with schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply acquisition and contributions assessment tools</li> <li>Use integration pathways linking open space, transport, trails and activity centres</li> <li>Adopt contribution management templates / processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support partnerships (schools, landowners, Traditional Owners)</li> <li>Engage communities in planning new parks and shared-use arrangements</li> </ul>	
Our Focus Over Time	<p><b>Horizon 1:</b> Policy updates, contribution frameworks, acquisition feasibility.</p>		<p><b>Horizon 2:</b> New parks, land acquisition, shared-use parks, activity centre open space.</p>	<p><b>Horizon 3:</b> Long-term expansion, strategic land partnerships.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing:</b> Partnerships and contributions tracking.</p>
<p><b>Optimise</b> Optimise the network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align works with Playspace Strategy review, Sports Capacity Plan, Peninsula Trails Masterplan and Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)/Universal Design guidelines</li> <li>Prioritise precincts with deficits in play, shade, paths and accessibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen oversight across capital works, asset management and sport/recreation planning</li> <li>Ensure decisions align with strategic performance and community equity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply prioritisation tools to upgrades and master plans</li> <li>Integrate open space assets into Asset Management Strategy (AMS)</li> <li>Apply design guidelines for accessibility, Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) and cultural safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build capability in universal design, inclusive design, sport planning and engagement</li> <li>Maintain community co-design and feedback loops</li> </ul>	
Our Focus Over Time	<p><b>Horizon 1:</b> Priority upgrades, accessibility audits, design guideline adoption.</p>		<p><b>Horizon 2:</b> District master plan rollout, play distribution, trail upgrades.</p>	<p><b>Horizon 3:</b> Major infrastructure and complex precinct redevelopment.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing:</b> Maintenance, inclusive design improvements, engagement.</p>



## Summary of Actions

A summary overview of actions relating to each area of focus is provided below.

### Protect - Protect our inherited open space legacy

- 1.1 Implement planning scheme amendments to secure and strengthen open space.
- 1.2 Protect and celebrate Traditional Owner tangible and intangible cultural heritage.
- 1.3 Ensure everyone has easy access to natural open spaces.
- 1.4 Increase indigenous planting to boost canopy cover and biodiversity in priority areas.
- 1.5 Embed climate-resilient design.
- 1.6 Improve usability of open spaces with resilient infrastructure.
- 1.7 Proactively plan for the impact of future climate change.
- 1.8 Strengthen financial sustainability for open space maintenance.
- 1.9 Leverage partnerships for targeted open space funding.
- 1.10 Continue to foster community engagement and participation.

### Grow - Grow the open space network

- 2.1 Expand and improve open space in priority locations.
- 2.2 Incorporate open space into expanding activity centres.
- 2.3 Develop a clear and actionable open space disposal and acquisition process.
- 2.4 Develop and implement policies to ensure consistent, transparent, and accountable open space funding and use.
- 2.5 Increase developer contributions to deliver high-quality and accessible open space.
- 2.6 Partner with schools to share open space for mutual benefit.

### Optimise - Optimise the network

- 3.1 Improve the quality of open space in priority areas.
- 3.2 Address recreational pressure from off-leash dog activities.
- 3.3 Better distribute play opportunities.
- 3.4 Improve play opportunities across the Shire.
- 3.5 Review existing and develop new masterplans for complex and underperforming reserves.
- 3.6 Support the implementation of existing masterplans.
- 3.7 Prioritise cycling and walking connections through open space.
- 3.8 Plan for accessible and inclusive open spaces.
- 3.9 Integrate open space into asset management systems for better planning and transparency.

Please refer to the complete Implementation and Action Plan (Section 6) for more detail



6: Implementation

## Action Plan

This Implementation and Action Plan provides detailed information on implementation of the actions identified in the strategy including indicative costing, complexity, responsibilities, funding sources and timing.

The section is divided by each of the three directions: Protect, Grow, and Optimise.

Each section comprises:

- A summary of challenges and opportunities
- Overview of key approaches underpinning the actions
- List of actions and associated tasks that outline how we will respond
- Location reference
- Priority
- Likely Value
- Outcomes
- Responsibility, and
- Timeline

## Action Table Key

### Action Reference

P4

Where an action relates to a particular Precinct the action is marked with this circle number. e.g. P1 = Precinct 1

The action can be found in the precinct overview section

- Coastal
- Residential
- Rural

The circle colour indicates Precinct landscape type.

### Open space map reference number

(2)

Nominated reserves include their corresponding map reference in brackets.

These maps can be found in the precinct overviews.

### Priority

**High:** Actions with major impact on access, quality or equity.

**Medium:** Actions with moderate or localised benefits.

**Low:** Actions with minor or incremental improvements.

### Likely Value

**Low** – Less than \$50K

**Moderate** - \$50K to \$200K

**High** – 200K to \$500K

**Very High** - \$500K +

### Timeline

**Horizon 1:** 1 - 3 Years

**Horizon 2:** 4 - 9 Years

**Horizon 3:** 10 - 15 Years

**Ongoing:** Regular work programming

### Outcome

Describes the intended outcome and what success looks like.

### Responsibility

Describes the responsible departments and/or teams to lead action delivery.



## 6.1 Direction 1

**PROTECT**  
Protect our  
inherited open  
space legacy

Preserve natural and cultural heritage, biodiversity, and sensitive ecosystems. This includes safeguarding heritage sites, conserving native vegetation, protecting critical habitats like Ramsar wetlands, and ensuring open spaces are not lost to development.

### Summary of Challenges

**Balancing Development with Conservation**  
Development pressures near critical natural and cultural sites can conflict with preservation goals. Rigorous planning and regulations are needed to protect biodiversity and heritage from unchecked growth.

**Funding and Resources**  
Sustaining these efforts requires long-term funding for maintenance, community engagement, and cultural integration. Competing budget priorities could slow progress.

**Engaging the Community**  
Reaching diverse groups and encouraging active involvement in environmental and cultural initiatives will require targeted outreach and education strategies.

**Climate Change Pressures**  
Increased storms and droughts may require more sophisticated infrastructure to manage water and maintain green spaces. Ensuring resilience in new plantings will be vital.

**Collaboration with Traditional Owners**  
Working with Traditional Owners to incorporate knowledge into open space planning requires ongoing and meaningful consultation and the desire to protect Bunurong cultural and biocultural values, including tangible and intangible heritage.

**Recognising Open Space in Practice**  
A large number of open space parcels are functioning as open space for community recreation but are not zoned accordingly.

### Summary of Opportunities

**Cultural Preservation**  
Protecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage provides a chance to connect the community with its history. Partnering with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to create cultural trails and signage enhances local awareness and respect for the region's heritage.

**Biodiversity and Habitat Protection**  
Managing local parks, native vegetation, and Ramsar wetlands ensures the preservation of critical ecosystems. Restoring coastal and dune vegetation boosts resilience and combats erosion, preserving biodiversity for future generations.

**Climate Resilience and Sustainable Design**  
Implementing blue-green infrastructure, like raingardens and wetlands, along with drought-tolerant landscaping, will help manage stormwater and adapt to climate change. These initiatives make public spaces both resilient and visually appealing.

**Community Engagement**  
Educating the community about the value of nature and involving them in environmental projects fosters a sense of stewardship. Promoting Traditional Owner arts and volunteer programs strengthens local connections to the land.

**Green Infrastructure**  
Expanding tree canopy in open spaces will help cool urban spaces, improve air quality, and increase biodiversity, making open spaces more inviting and sustainable.

# Protect the Network

## Key Approaches

Safeguarding heritage sites, conserving native vegetation, and preserving habitats like Ramsar wetlands, while preventing the loss of open spaces to development are key to protecting the network into the future.

Balancing growth with conservation, securing funding, engaging the community, and enhancing climate resilience are essential for preserving these assets for future generations. The open space analysis, priority-setting, and targets directly address these themes.

### Prioritise Biodiversity Protection

Managing the competing needs of urban development and the protection of natural and cultural assets. It's important to ensure that growth does not come at the cost of biodiversity or heritage conservation.

#### Focus Areas

- Implement planning regulations around critical natural and cultural sites
- Ensure urban development initiatives protect biodiversity and heritage
- Use environmental impact assessments for sensitive areas

### Sustainable Funding and Resource Management

Securing and allocating long-term financial resources to maintain and improve parks, ensuring community engagement, and integrating cultural initiatives into park development. Balancing competing budget priorities is crucial for sustained success.

#### Focus Areas

- Establish dedicated funding for park maintenance and cultural initiatives
- Explore public-private partnerships to fund open space improvements
- Prioritise long-term environmental stewardship by undertaking initiatives that strengthen community ownership

### Community Engagement and Education

Encouraging active community participation in environmental, cultural, and conservation projects. Educating the public about the value of local ecosystems and heritage will help foster a strong sense of ownership and responsibility toward these spaces.

#### Focus Areas

- Develop targeted outreach for diverse groups
- Promote cultural awareness and conservation programs
- Involve locals in volunteer projects

### Climate Resilience and Sustainable Infrastructure

Designing public spaces that are adaptable and resilient to climate change, such as more frequent storms and droughts. Infrastructure should be able to manage environmental stresses while providing sustainable, attractive green spaces for all.

#### Focus Areas

- Integrate blue-green infrastructure (e.g., raingardens, wetlands)
- Use drought-tolerant plantings
- Plan for urban cooling and biodiversity enhancement
- Enhance urban cooling through strategic vegetation
- Support biodiversity through habitat-sensitive design

### Cultural and Biodiversity Preservation

Protecting both cultural heritage and biodiversity through careful planning and collaboration with local communities and Traditional Owners. Continue work to preserve local ecosystems and culturally significant spaces for future generations.

#### Focus Areas

- Collaborate with Traditional Owners for knowledge integration
- Create cultural trails and heritage signage
- Focus on habitat restoration and biodiversity protection



**Direction 1 - Actions**

No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Implement planning scheme amendments to secure and strengthen open space outcomes</b>						
	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amend the Municipal Planning Strategy and Local Planning Policies to align with the key strategic directions of the Strategy*.</li> <li>Amend the Schedule to Clause 72.08 (Background Documents) to include the Open Space Strategy and the Open Space Contributions Report as reference documents</li> <li>Advocate to Amend the Schedule to Clause 53.01 (Public Open Space Contributions and Subdivision) to increase the contribution rate for other residential, commercial and industrial subdivisions from 5 % to 5.5%</li> <li>Rezone 50** high priority parcels (including 11A Allambi Ave) identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones such as PPRZ or PCRZ.</li> <li>Undertake a future amendment to address additional parcels potentially suitable for disposal or rezoning, subject to further investigation, consultation and funding.</li> </ul> <p>*Clause 02.03: Strategic Directions &amp; Clause 19.02-5: Open Space ** these sites are listed on the following pages</p>	A more securely protected open space network and reduced confusion thanks to more clear and consistent zoning of sites.	Moderate	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team Planning Services Team



**High Priority Parcels to Rezone to PPRZ**

Rezone high priority parcels already developed or used as public open space to the Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) to reflect their established use.

Name	Precinct	Township	Current Zone
Wensleydale Drive Reserve (2 parcels) (47)	P1	Mornington	GRZ1
Van Ness Reserve (59)	P1	Mornington	GRZ1
Bentons Square Reserve (61)	P1	Mornington	GRZ1
Oakridge Reserve (2 parcels) (81)	P1	Mornington	GRZ1
Summerfields Wetlands (108)	P1	Mornington	GRZ1
Maddison Hill Estate Park (126)	P1	Mornington	GRZ1
Narambi Station Reserve (45)	P1	Mornington	GRZ1
Cobb Road Reserve (5)	P1	Mount Eliza	GRZ1
Langrigg Avenue Reserve (portion of) (93)	P1	Mount Martha	C1Z
Clairmont Close Reserve (7)	P2	Somerville	GRZ1
Barber Reserve (entrance only) (37)	P2	Somerville	GRZ1
Banksia Reserve (40)	P2	Tyabb	GRZ1

Name	Precinct	Township	Current Zone
Flinders Street Reserve (25)	P4	Bittern	GRZ1
Arthur W Peterson Reserve (15)	P4	Crib Point	TRZ1
Tara Drive Reserve (8)	P4	Hastings	GRZ1
Barcoo Street Playground (27)	P4	Hastings	GWZ2
Olivia Way Park (28)	P4	Hastings	GRZ1
Seascape Avenue Reserve (24)	P5	Balnarring	GRZ1
Koopalanda / Beauford Road Reserve (1)	P6	Red Hill South	GRZ1
Red Hill Station Reserve (7)	P6	Red Hill South	GWZ1
Terry Goddard Reserve (41)	P7	Rosebud	GRZ1
Waterfall Gully Preschool (53)	P7	Rosebud	GRZ1
Horizons Community Park (13)	P7	Safety Beach	GRZ1
11A Allambi Avenue	P7	Capel Sound	GRZ1
W E Newton Reserve (19)	P9	Portsea	GRZ1



**High Priority Parcels to Rezone to PCRZ**

Rezone high priority parcels already managed for conservation to the Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) to reflect their established purpose.

Name	Precinct	Township	Current Zone
Clearwater Bushland Reserve	P1	Mount Martha	GRZ1
Finlayson Bushland Reserve	P1	Mount Martha	GRZ1
Greenfield Way Bushland Reserve	P1	Mount Martha	LDRZ
Gunyong Creek Bushland Reserve	P1	Mount Eliza	GRZ1
Harrap Creek Bushland Reserve	P1	Mount Martha	GRZ1
Quinton Court Bushland Reserve	P1	Mount Eliza	GRZ1
Seaside Creek Bushland Reserve	P1	Mount Eliza	GRZ1
Sunshine Creek Bushland Reserve - Upper	P1	Mount Martha	GRZ1
Tanti Creek Bushland Reserve	P1	Mornington	GRZ1

Name	Precinct	Township	Current Zone
King Creek Bushland Reserve - South	P4	Hastings	GRZ1
Warringine Park - Coastal	P4	Bittern	GRZ1
Warringine Park - Creek	P4	Bittern	LDRZ
Warringine Park - Woodland	P4	Bittern	LDRZ
Dartnell Reserve (40)	P4	Crib Point	GRZ1
South Sea Foreshore Reserve	P5	Somers	GRZ1
Balnarring Mechanics Institute Park (13)	P5	Balnarring	GRZ1
Old Cape Schanck Road Bushland Reserve - North	P7	Rosebud	GWZ1
Old Cape Schanck Road Bushland Reserve - South	P7	Rosebud	SUZ4
Peninsula Sands Bushland Reserve	P7	Rosebud	GRZ1
Waterfall Gully Bushland Reserve	P7	Rosebud	GRZ1
Belar Road Bushland Reserve	P9	Tootgarook	GRZ1
Dimmicks Bushland Reserve	P9	Blairgowrie	GRZ1
Jack Ritchie Track Bushland Reserve	P9	Blairgowrie	LDRZ1
Tyrone Bushland Reserve	P9	Rye	GRZ1
Harry Blythe Playground (25)	P9	Blairgowrie	GRZ1



**Direction 1 - Actions**

No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Protect and celebrate Traditional Owner tangible and intangible cultural heritage</b>						
	Partner with Traditional Owners and the community to co-design open spaces that reflect cultural heritage, incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge and art, and celebrate local stories through inclusive engagement and interpretive elements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with BLCAP to embed reconciliation in the open space network.</li> <li>Identify sites and projects for discussion with the Bunurong Land Council.</li> <li>Build on existing partnerships, including coastal work and Bunurong place naming.</li> <li>Incorporate Cultural Heritage design preferences into the Open Space Design Guidelines (see Actions 1.5 and 3.8)</li> <li>Minimise ground disturbance (and the need for Cultural Heritage Management Plans) by choosing locations for built assets that do not require extensive modification or disturbance; working with the existing topography rather than modifying it; reusing existing buildings, building on existing footprints and clustering buildings close together; minimising the need for excavation by designing cantilevered and elevated structures; considering foundations that use driven or drilled piles, and those that can be easily removed or adapted as needed; and protecting existing native vegetation during construction.</li> </ul>	Strong working relationships with Traditional Owners which increase the Shire's ability to meaningfully protect and celebrate cultural heritage.	N/A	High	Horizon 1 Ongoing	Cultural Heritage Team Community Inclusion Team Community Infrastructure & Open Space Planning Team RAP Working Group



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Ensure everyone has easy access to natural open spaces</b>						
	<p>Explore the potential to transform reserves with limited infrastructure into 'natural' spaces that prioritise walking paths and support biodiversity conservation</p> <p><i>*Design improvements in consultation with drainage engineer to ensure drainage function isn't compromised. NB. Prioritisation based on urban areas of the Shire which fall outside the minimum distance to natural areas as defined in the experience standards.</i></p>	<p>Prioritise the following reserves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Deanswood Drive Reserve (1), Somerville</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Todd Grove Recreation Reserve (34), Somerville</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Kinlora Drive Drainage Reserve*, Somerville</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Delepan Drive Reserve (2), Tyabb</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Seribu Close Reserve (31), Tyabb</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Rotaract Park (33), Tyabb</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Bunguyung Reserve (38), Tyabb</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P4</span> Hastings Foreshore Reserve (6), Hastings</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Pier Street Reserve (30), Dromana</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Recreation open space across Safety Beach</li> </ul>	<p>Managed, sustainable access to natural areas for recreation without compromising conservation.</p>	<p>Moderate (each project)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)</p>	<p>Climate Change Team</p> <p>Natural Systems Team</p> <p>Open Space Team</p> <p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Increase indigenous planting to boost canopy cover and biodiversity in priority areas</b>						
	<p>Develop and implement a planting strategy to increase indigenous species, prioritising tree planting in areas with low canopy cover (less than 30% as set in the Plan for Victoria), high heat vulnerability, and significant tree loss, while aligning with the Biodiversity Conservation Plan and Urban Forest Strategy.</p>	<p>Prioritise additional planting for reserves in the following suburbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: orange;">P1</span> Mornington (currently 21% canopy cover)</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Baxter (currently 20% canopy cover)</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Safety Beach (currently 14% canopy cover)</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Dromana (currently 29% canopy cover)</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Capel Sound (currently 29% canopy cover)</li> </ul> <p>Prioritise the protection and preservation of remnant vegetation and areas of native vegetation; revegetating and landscaping using local native species; prioritising the use of species that are consistent with pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation classes (EVCs); using erosion stabilising techniques; and protecting drains and pits from contamination during construction.</p>	<p>Increased canopy cover and biodiversity distributed more equally throughout the Shire.</p>	<p>Low - Moderate (each project)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)</p>	<p>Climate Change Team</p> <p>Natural Systems Team</p> <p>Open Space Team</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>83</b></p>



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.5</b>	<b>Embed climate-resilient design in open spaces in line with Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)</b>						
	Align open space planning and upgrades with the Shire's adopted ESD Policy  <i>(Refer Actions 1.2 &amp; 3.8)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Open Space Design Guidelines to ensure alignment with ESD Policy.</li> <li>• Train staff and contractors to implement ESD-aligned guidelines in open space projects.</li> <li>• Apply these guidelines in all future upgrades and landscape design projects.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate performance of upgrades against ESD outcomes.</li> </ul>	Open spaces which are more resilient to changing climate and a more sustainable open space assets.	Low	High	Ongoing	Climate Change Team Water and Coasts Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>1.6</b>	<b>Improve usability of open spaces with resilient infrastructure</b>						
	Implement resilient infrastructure improvements as guided by Council's ESD Policy, including flood-resilient paths, shade, and sustainable materials like permeable surfaces and green infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit and prioritise areas for infrastructure upgrades based on ESD principles.</li> <li>• Apply ESD Policy to the design of flood-resistant pathways and shade structures.</li> <li>• Plan for investment in green infrastructure (e.g. permeable paving, urban forests).</li> <li>• Monitor improvements in usability and resilience post-implementation.</li> </ul>	A proactive data-driven program for implementation of ESD policy	Medium (+ low for ongoing monitoring)	High	Ongoing	Climate Change Team Water and Coasts Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Natural Systems Community Engagement Team



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.7</b>	<b>Proactively plan for the impact of future climate change on open spaces</b>						
	Support the implementation of the Mornington Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Plan and Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy by prioritising actions that help manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change across the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with local environmental, landcare and reserve friends-groups, prioritise open spaces for revegetation and habitat restoration using climate-resilient indigenous species to strengthen ecological corridors and buffer vulnerable habitats, working with ecologists, land managers, and Traditional Owners to map high-priority areas.</li> <li>Protect and deliver open space upgrades near the foreshore in line with Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMPs) and consult the Coastal Strategy modelling and recommendations to ensure upgrades are future-proofed, and proactively select sites and infrastructure for resilience.</li> </ul> <p><b>P1 P4 P5 P7 P9</b></p>	A comprehensive, proactive approach to strategy implementation across the Shire resulting in a more resilient network of conservation and coastal open spaces.	N/A	High	Horizon 1-3	Climate Change Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>1.8</b>	<b>Strengthen financial sustainability for open space maintenance</b>						
	Ensure sustainable service levels for open space maintenance through long-term financial planning and strengthened budget safeguards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review current budgets to ensure maintenance funding is clearly identified and supports agreed service levels.</li> <li>Plan ahead with multi-year maintenance schedules for parks, trails, foreshore and bushland areas.</li> <li>Identify mechanisms such as service-level agreements or fixed allocations should be explored to support consistent and sustainable maintenance funding over time.</li> <li>Use community priorities and asset criticality to guide maintenance, repairs, and upgrades.</li> <li>Monitor and report on maintenance funding, service levels, and performance against available resourcing to support informed decision-making.</li> </ul>	A proactive, data-driven and comprehensive approach to asset management and service provision.	N/A	High	Horizon 1 Ongoing	Finance Operations Team Asset Management Team

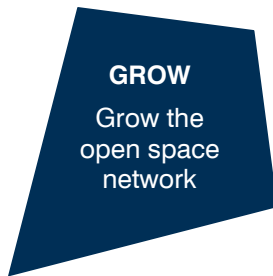
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No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.9</b>	<b>Leverage partnerships for targeted open space funding</b>						
	Collaborate with stakeholders to secure additional funding for open space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key funding partners (e.g. All levels of government and private providers).</li> <li>Develop an advocacy plan to secure funding and partnerships for priority locations.</li> <li>Submit regular funding applications for targeted open space projects.</li> </ul>	A diversified funding model for investment in open space experiences.	N/A	High	Horizon 2 Ongoing	Advocacy and Government Relations Team
<b>1.10</b>	<b>Continue to foster community engagement and participation</b>						
	Continue to foster inclusive community engagement, participation and education in local environmental and cultural initiatives to build awareness, ownership, and stewardship.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop targeted outreach for diverse community groups.</li> <li>Promote cultural awareness and conservation programs.</li> <li>Support local involvement through volunteer platforms (e.g. Volunteering Mornington Peninsula).</li> <li>Encourage participation via community grants programs.</li> <li>Run public awareness campaigns highlighting local environmental and cultural value.</li> <li>Support and expand the deliberative engagement panel program.</li> <li>Regularly post informative and engaging content on social media platforms.</li> </ul>	A more equitable, meaningful and effective open space network.	N/A	High	Ongoing	Natural Systems Team Community Engagement Team



## 6.2 Direction 2



Expand the network of open spaces by creating new parks and green areas. This focuses on increasing the quantity of open space available to the community and improving connectivity between these areas.

### Summary of Challenges

#### Balancing Development and Preservation:

Expanding open spaces while ensuring natural and cultural assets are preserved can be difficult. Careful planning is required to minimize the impact on the environment and maintain the ecological value of the land.

#### Funding and Resources:

Acquiring new open space requires securing funding for land purchase, infrastructure, and ongoing maintenance. This could be challenging when competing with other community priorities for budget allocations.

#### Biodiversity Decline:

The fragmentation of natural areas due to development and ecosystem degradation is reducing biodiversity. Expanding open spaces requires careful planning to preserve natural habitats, and prevent further degradation of ecosystems, especially around high-demand tourist spots.

#### Acquiring New Open Space in Established Areas:

Acquiring new open space in established areas is increasingly difficult due to limited land availability, high property values, and competing development pressures, making it essential to explore innovative solutions to address gaps in access and equity, such as shared use agreements.

### Summary of Opportunities

#### Improved Trails and Connections:

Expanding the network of walking and cycling trails between different regions, such as the Hastings to Stony Point off-road trail, can enhance regional connectivity. This would promote active transport and link new open spaces to urban centers, encouraging higher use.

#### Micro-Parks and Green Spaces:

Developing small-scale, community-focused parks within urban areas can increase access to green space without requiring large-scale land acquisition. These spaces provide opportunities for passive recreation and social interaction, supporting community well-being.

#### Enhanced Connectivity:

Connecting newly acquired open spaces to surrounding town centers, neighbourhoods, and recreation facilities will encourage greater use and enhance the overall appeal of these areas. Improved transport options to these new spaces can promote active lifestyles.

#### Involve Traditional Owners:

Work alongside the Bunurong peoples to acquire and co-manage significant cultural and environmental lands. Their knowledge of the Peninsula's ecosystems and history can help guide land management and increase conservation efforts, especially in sensitive areas.

#### Developer Contributions:

Make the most of developer contributions by prioritising open space network improvements that create the greatest return on investment and improve administration of contribution collection to ensure spending is timely and efficient.

## Grow the Network

### Key Approaches

By addressing these issues through innovative strategies and collaborative efforts, we can ensure that open spaces meet the needs of both current and future generations.

#### Acquiring New Open Space

Securing new open space in both established and developing areas can be challenging due to limited available land and high property costs. Additionally, the lack of vacant land in urban areas necessitates innovative land acquisition strategies.

##### Focus Area

- Explore the potential for repurposing underutilised or vacant land for new parks and green spaces
- Implement public acquisition overlays to proactively secure land in strategic locations
- Foster public-private partnerships to facilitate the purchase of land for community use
- Rationalisation and redeployment - disposal of land surplus to the network to reinvest in open space improvements and acquisition

#### Improved Trails and Connections

Expanding and connecting walking and cycling trails requires investment, coordination, and overcoming landownership and environmental challenges.

##### Focus Area

- Deliver Peninsula Trail for better connectivity
- Improve links between parks, green spaces, and urban centers
- Create multi-use trails connecting open spaces to transport hubs
- Collaborate with developers to integrate trails into new developments

#### Sustainable Funding and Resource Management

Limited budgets and competing priorities make it difficult to secure sufficient funding for acquiring, developing, and maintaining open spaces.

##### Focus Areas

- Maximise developer contributions for high-impact open space projects
- Pursue state and federal grants for open space and environmental conservation
- Improve administration of contribution collection to ensure spending is targeted and efficient
- Prioritise low-cost projects with high community benefit
- Pursue Planning Scheme Amendment and an increase to the Open Space Contributions Rate

#### Improved Community Engagement

Ensuring community involvement in open space planning is essential, but can be difficult in diverse communities with varying preferences. Inclusive consultation with marginalised groups and Traditional Owners is also needed.

##### Focus Area

- Strengthen partnerships with local groups and involve residents in planning
- Use multiple platforms to reach a broader audience and gather diverse input
- Collaborate with Traditional Owners to integrate cultural and ecological knowledge
- Establish feedback loops to reflect community needs in ongoing open space upgrade processes

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**Direction 2 - Actions**

No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.1	<b>Expand and improve open space in priority locations</b>						
	<p>Enhance accessibility to open space by addressing walkability gaps within urban areas of the Shire. Prioritise identifying and developing key locations for new or expanded open spaces, ensuring all residents have convenient access to recreational areas, with a focus on areas designated for future growth.</p> <p><i>NB: Gaps prioritised around areas of substantial and incremental change as designated in the Housing and Settlement Strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Explore open space land acquisition, shared use and/or improvement of open space in Dromana and Rosebud (refer gap areas on Precinct map pg.164 &amp; 167) to establish a new local recreation park with play provision, focusing on areas east of the primary school and the northern part of town. If acquisition is not feasible, improve existing park infrastructure to mitigate the gap in open space provision.</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P4</span> Partner with VicTrack to improve access and develop a new local park along the rail corridor in North Hastings, addressing the open space gap near Tyabb Railway Reserve.</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Develop approximately 2.19 hectares of Council-owned land at Allambi Avenue, Capel Sound as public open space with a neighbourhood-level playspace, in line with Neighbourhood Public Open Space standards to address the identified gap in local provision and rezone the subject land to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).</li> </ul>	<p>Equitable provision of open space throughout the Shire which provides access to important experiences within preferred distances (as described by the experience service framework)</p>	<p>High - Very High (per project)</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Horizon 2</p>	<p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Incorporate open space into expanding activity centres</b>						
	Support the integration of open space into expanding activity centres, including small pockets of green space or connecting walkways, in accordance with Activity Centre Structure Plans (listed in 'Our Precinct Profiles').	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate small green spaces, plazas, or pocket parks within high-density and mixed-use areas.</li> <li>Develop pedestrian-friendly connections such as walkways and green links between open spaces and key destinations.</li> <li>Prioritise universal access, visibility, and safety to encourage use by all age groups and abilities.</li> <li>Align open space design with the unique character, needs, and future growth of each activity centre.</li> </ul>	An integrated open space network which weaves nature and recreation experiences into every day and meets the needs of visitors and residents without private outdoor space.	High-Very High (per project)	Medium	Horizon 2 - 3	Strategic Planning Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Develop a clear and actionable open space disposal and acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018</b>						
	Review and rationalise open space by identifying underutilised or redundant sites and implementing a clear, actionable, and transparent Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018, to better meet community needs, improve access, and strategically address open space gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify open space areas that may have limited function, poor access, or are located very close to other similar spaces (within 200 metres). Explore opportunities to enhance the value of these spaces, such as improving their use, combining them with nearby spaces, or repurposing them to better serve the community. Initial areas of focus include, Mornington, Somerville, Hastings and Rosebud, where there may be opportunities to make better use of existing open space. <b>P1 P2 P4 P7</b></li> <li>Establish and implement a transparent, equitable land transaction (disposal, acquisition and reallocation) process that aligns with legislation and public acquisition overlays, supported through an assessment of need, benchmarking and community consultation.</li> <li>Integrate with the Property Strategy when due for review.</li> </ul>	A responsible, optimised open space system which sustainably delivers open space experiences into the future.	N/A	High	Horizon 2	Property Strategy and Operations Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

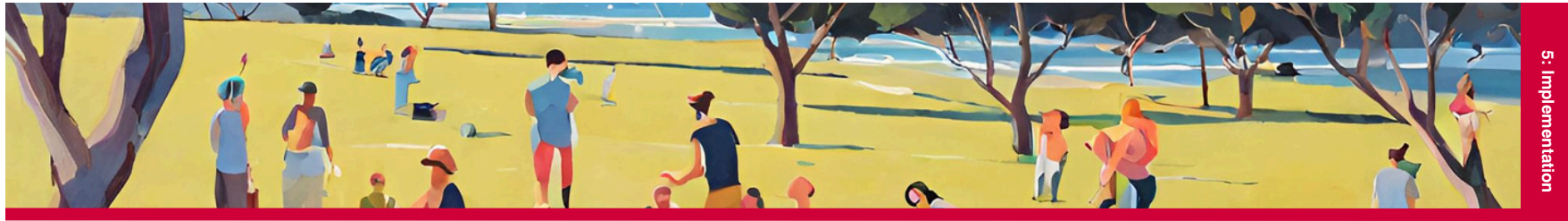


No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Develop and implement policies to ensure consistent, transparent, and accountable open space funding and use</b>						
	<p>Strengthen policy frameworks that ensure equitable funding, protection and enhancement of public open space through developer contributions and utility infrastructure agreements.</p> <p>Use these policies to improve transparency, maximise open space value, and direct investment where it best meets community needs and supports growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement an Open Space Contributions Policy to guide the collection, allocation and transparent use of public open space contributions in accordance with the Subdivision Act 1988.</li> <li>• Develop Utility Service Guidelines for Public Open Space to ensure consistent assessment of utility infrastructure proposals with a view to securing appropriate compensatory improvements to impacted public land.</li> </ul>	<p>Consistent, high-quality and equitable open space experiences to meet the needs of residents as the population grows.</p>	N/A	High	Horizon 1	<p>Property Strategy and Operations Team</p> <p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Increase developer contributions to deliver high-quality and accessible open space</b>						
	Strengthen the management and value of developer open space contributions to better align with community needs and support the delivery of high-quality, accessible public open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise cash contributions in areas where open space is sufficient, to fund upgrades and maintenance.</li> <li>• Seek land contributions in locations with walkability gaps to improve access and respond to growth.</li> <li>• Advocate to increase the current developer contribution rate to 5.5% across all future residential and commercial developments to meet demand and support long-term sustainability.</li> <li>• Advocate for changes through strategic planning and policy updates (refer to Implementation Plan for further detail).</li> </ul>	A sustainable open space management approach which funds the whole of life costs of development and ensures quality of experience is provided over the lifetime of the asset.	N/A	High	Horizon 1	Strategic Planning Team Planning Services Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Partner with schools to share open space for mutual benefit</b>						
	Develop a plan to work with schools to facilitate shared access to open spaces, including playgrounds and ovals, in areas with gaps in open space provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop shared use agreements for playgrounds, ovals, and other facilities.</li> <li>• Consider after-hours access through measures like open gates or signage.</li> <li>• Align the approach with the Plan for Victoria.</li> <li>• Identify schools in areas with open space gaps.</li> <li>• Enter into negotiations with the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>P4</b> Hastings Primary School</li> <li>• <b>P7</b> Dromana Primary School</li> <li>• <b>P7</b> Rosebud Secondary College</li> <li>• <b>P7</b> Eastbourne Primary School</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Enhanced use of public assets to provide public services offering good value for money and improve access to open space.	N/A	Medium	Horizon 3	Property Strategy and Operations Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Peninsula Sports Development Team

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## 6.3 Direction 3



Enhance the quality and functionality of existing open spaces. This includes improving infrastructure, increasing climate resilience, managing stormwater effectively, planting more trees to increase canopy cover, and ensuring spaces are accessible, well-maintained, and used to their fullest potential.

### Summary of Challenges

#### Accessibility Retrofitting

Upgrading older spaces to meet modern accessibility standards can be both expensive and logistically difficult. This requires thoughtful design to ensure existing spaces are inclusive for people with disabilities.

#### Ongoing Maintenance

Keeping existing open spaces well-maintained over time is a significant challenge. Infrastructure improvements, such as trails, playgrounds, and sports facilities, require long-term investment for repairs, upkeep, and safety measures.

#### Community Engagement

Gathering feedback from diverse community groups and integrating their preferences into design and development plans can be time-consuming and complex. Effective engagement ensures spaces meet the needs of all demographics but can delay project timelines.

#### Environmental Pressure

Balancing increased use and development with environmental sustainability is crucial. Overuse of open spaces, especially in ecologically sensitive areas, can lead to degradation of natural habitats. All while ensuring that enhancements do not negatively impact the environment.

#### Equity in Access

Ensuring equitable access means all community members, regardless of age, ability, cultural background, or socio-economic status, can benefit from improvements to public spaces. This includes designing environments that are welcoming, inclusive, culturally safe, and accessible to everyone, with a focus on reducing barriers for groups who have historically experienced exclusion.

### Summary of Opportunities

#### Universal and Beach Accessibility

Conduct audits and apply universal design principles to ensure spaces are accessible to all, including people with mobility issues. Enhance beach access with features like beach matting and all-terrain wheelchairs.

#### Equitable and Flexible Use

Design and upgrade public spaces to support a wide range of activities, such as play, sport, socialising, and relaxation, by incorporating multi-functional, inclusive facilities. Ensure all features, including playgrounds and recreational areas, are accessible and welcoming to people of all ages, abilities, and interests, promoting greater community participation and connection.

#### Plan for Future Needs

Adapt spaces to future recreational trends (e.g., e-sports, outdoor fitness) to reduce conflicts and accommodate evolving preferences.

#### Involve Traditional Owners

Collaborate with the Bunurong peoples to integrate cultural values and sustainable stewardship in open spaces, incorporating interpretive signage, cultural activities, and eco-tourism.

#### Sustainable Tourism Management

Introduce strategies to manage the impact of tourism on open spaces, such as sustainable infrastructure, visitor education programs, and strict environmental guidelines for recreational activities. This will ensure that tourism does not overwhelm sensitive natural areas.

## Optimise the Network

### Key Approaches

By addressing these challenges and opportunities through thoughtful planning and strategic investment, we can ensure that open spaces remain functional, welcoming, and adaptable to the evolving needs of the community. Each approach presented aims to enhance the overall quality, accessibility, and usability of these spaces for all residents and visitors.

#### Versatility and Multi-Use

Designing open spaces to meet diverse community needs involves creating flexible areas that can support various activities, from sports to relaxation. This ensures spaces can adapt to changing needs and serve multiple purposes, making them more inclusive and functional for everyone.

##### Focus Areas

- Upgrade spaces to support a variety of activities with multi-use facilities
- Design adaptable spaces that can evolve with changing needs, like outdoor fitness or cultural trends
- Enhance spaces to accommodate all user groups effectively
- Gather community feedback to ensure spaces are versatile and multifunctional

#### Asset Management and Maintenance

Ongoing upkeep of open spaces requires consistent investment to ensure they remain safe, usable, and welcoming.

##### Focus Areas

- Prioritise long-term funding for infrastructure maintenance, including trails and sports facilities
- Implement regular maintenance schedules to ensure asset longevity
- Use condition assessments to guide resource allocation
- Focus on preventive maintenance to minimise costs and extend asset life

#### Accessibility and Inclusivity

Ensuring open spaces are accessible to all, including people with disabilities and communities experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage, requires intentional and inclusive design that removes barriers and supports full participation.

##### Focus Areas

- Conduct accessibility audits and apply universal design principles for inclusivity
- Enhance beach access with features like matting and all-terrain wheelchairs
- Make improvements to ensure spaces are welcoming and accessible to all
- Collaborate with local groups and Traditional Owners to integrate cultural knowledge into planning and design including art, interpretation/ storytelling and enhancing cultural safety

#### Sport and Recreation

Providing sports and recreation infrastructure to meet growing demand is challenging due to limited space, particularly in urban areas where land is scarce. As populations grow and interest in physical activities rises, creative solutions, such as multi-use spaces or repurposing underutilized areas, are needed to ensure access to quality facilities for all.

##### Focus Areas

- Design and upgrade spaces for both active recreation and organised sports
- Improve access to and quality of sports facilities with better maintenance
- Promote multi-functional spaces for both passive and active recreation
- Collaborate with local sports clubs to ensure facilities meet community needs

# Optimise the Network

No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Improve the quality of open space in priority areas</b>						
	<p>Enhance the quality and functionality of key reserves, prioritising parks with limited nearby alternatives, and low performance ratings.</p> <p><i>NB. Reserves have been prioritised where there are no other higher-performing reserves nearby</i> <i>All recommendations should be tested with the local community to confirm priorities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Lugano Reserve, Dromana (27): Prioritise improvements by adding park furniture and increasing planting to enhance the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the space.</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P7</span> Fig Street Reserve, Dromana (South Portion): Focus on minimal furniture upgrades, in line with its role as a local recreation park, to support informal, low-maintenance use.</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Improve the quality of Penton Park, Somerville (28) or Sinclair Street, Somerville (32) with the addition of park furniture and planting to improve recreation experiences in this area.</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P4</span> The Bittern Boulevard, Bittern (19). Improve the appeal and functionality of the reserve with park furniture mature trees.</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P9</span> French St Reserve, Rye (23). Prioritise improvement to park access and enhance the functionality and appeal through the addition of trees and park furniture.</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P9</span> Peter Shelmerdine Reserve (9), Portsea: Focus on minimal furniture addition to improve the functionality of the reserve.</li> </ul>	<p>Higher quality experiences in open space more equitably distributed throughout the Shire</p>	<p>Moderate - Very High (per project)</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Horizon 2</p>	<p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p> <p>Project Delivery Team</p>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Address recreational pressure from off-leash dog activities through alternative solutions</b>						
	<p>Investigate the provision of dog off-leash areas based on community feedback and in alignment with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Dogs in Public Places Policy 2024, ensuring access targets are met across all precincts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">●</span> Coastal Precincts: Ensure off-leash areas are provided within each town.</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">●</span> Residential Precincts: Provide off-leash areas, where feasible, within a short drive (approx. 1km) for ease of access.</li> <li><span style="color: green;">●</span> Rural Precincts: Provision is expected to be met in non-rural precincts.</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P2</span> Investigate suitability of open space in the East of Somerville for a dog off leash area.</li> </ul>	<p>More responsible dog ownership, reduced conflict and impact of over-use of grass areas by providing sufficient, quality access to meet daily needs.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Horizon 3</p>	<p>Community Safety Team</p> <p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>

# Optimise the Network

No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Better distribute play opportunities</b>						
	Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015–2020 and assess opportunities to address gaps in play provision, while rationalising playgrounds in precincts with both oversupply and unmet demand to ensure equitable and efficient access across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider planning for a playspace within the following play gaps in growth areas (incremental change):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>P4</b> Hastings Foreshore Reserve (northern end)</li> <li><b>P7</b> Support Capel Sound Foreshore Committee of Management to explore nature play opportunities along the foreshore</li> <li><b>P3</b> Explore the opportunity to develop a playground at RM Hooper Reserve to fill the playground gap in this precinct.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Identify underutilised or redundant playgrounds (such as those with nearby play spaces within 200m, small sizes, poor access, or limited infrastructure):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>P5</b> Somers: Assess Kennedy Road Reserve (4) and Nisson Court Reserve (11) for consolidation into a single, higher-value playspace</li> <li><b>P2</b> Somerville: Explore consolidating play experiences at Penton Park (28) and Somerville Recreation Reserve (26), focusing on two higher-value sites within a 200m catchment</li> </ul> </li> <li>Explore options for redeploying or repurposing these spaces to better meet community needs and improve recreational opportunities in high-demand areas.</li> </ul>	Equitable provision of play spaces throughout the Shire which provides access to play experiences for all ages, within preferred distances (as described by the experience service framework)	Moderate - High (per project)	High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Improve play opportunities across the Shire</b>						
	Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015-2020 to improve play opportunities for all ages and abilities across the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver youth-focused park upgrades that encourage active play, adventure, and nature-based learning in line with the Youth Vision.</li> <li>Provide accessible sport and physical activity amenities in coastal precincts to support active lifestyles for residents and visitors.</li> <li>Incorporate play and fitness infrastructure for older adults, such as seniors exercise parks.</li> <li><b>P4</b> Deliver new skate facility at Arthur W Peterson Reserve (15) subject to VicTrack approval.</li> </ul>	Equitable quality of play spaces throughout the Shire which provides access to play experiences for all ages, within preferred distances (as described by the experience service framework)	Moderate - High (per project)	Medium	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Review existing and develop new masterplans for complex and underperforming reserves</b>						
	<p>Prioritise and develop masterplans for parks and reserves to meet community needs, support sustainable development, and align with broader Council strategies for sustainability, asset renewal, and infrastructure. Ensure the planning process is informed by meaningful community engagement to reflect local priorities and values.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess, identify and prioritise district or regional open spaces that support complex and overlapping activities, have limited nearby alternatives, or possess unique characteristics and are identified as high-use and or highly sensitive.</li> <li>Assign high priority to updating masterplans endorsed by Council prior to 2016 to ensure they meet current standards and benchmarks outlined in the Strategy.</li> <li>Develop masterplans for district reserves with a performance score below 60%, in line with capital works and asset renewal programs, including:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>P7</b> Pier Street Reserve, Dromana (30)</li> <li><b>P1</b> Ferrero Reserve, Mt Martha (66)</li> <li><b>P4</b> Graham Myers Memorial Reserve, Bittern (21)</li> <li><b>P1</b> C B Wilson Reserve, Mornington (51)</li> <li><b>P4</b> Cyril Fox Recreation Reserve, Crib Point (24)</li> <li><b>P4</b> Western Port Athletics Track, Hastings, (30)</li> <li><b>P9</b> R J Rowley Recreation Reserve, Rye (13)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A proactive approach to continual improvement of open spaces and delivery of services that meet the needs of the community.</p>	Moderate	Medium - High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout) Ongoing	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

# Optimise the Network

No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Support the implementation of existing masterplans</b>						
	Support the implementation of master/concept plans to enhance the open space network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: blue;">P9</span> Stringer Road Reserve Concept Plan 2022, Blairgowrie (26): Support the development of a new playspace and improvements in line with the open space strategy objectives.</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P9</span> RW Stone Masterplan 2023, Somers (9): Support the upgrade of play infrastructure, path networks and dirt jumps.</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P1</span> Briars Masterplan (2019-2029), Mt Martha (92): Support ongoing improvements including improved trails and seating, educational signage including Traditional Owner cultural stories, play garden and children's garden.</li> <li><span style="color: orange;">P4</span> Hastings Foreshore Reserve (6 &amp; 12) Master Plan</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">P9</span> French Street Reserve (23) Master Plan</li> </ul>	A proactive approach to continual improvement of open spaces and delivery of services that meet the needs of the community.	High-Very High (per project)	High	Horizon 1	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team  Project Delivery Team
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Prioritise cycling and walking connections through open space</b>						
	Support the Peninsula Trails Strategic Plan & Peninsula Trails Masterplan 2024 to Complete the Walking and Cycling Trail Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill crucial gaps in the existing walking and cycling trail network to improve connectivity across the Mornington Peninsula and link to Melbourne's Bay Trail.</li> <li><span style="color: green;">P6</span> Plan for a short loop trail (under 30 minutes) within the Rural Precinct, in response to community priorities, and consider prioritising proposed walking trails with the Red Hill Recreation Reserve (5) Long Term Master Plan 2014 for implementation.</li> </ul>	An integrated network of open space throughout the Shire that supports and encourages walking and rolling for recreation, exercise and active transportation.	High - Very High (per project)	Medium	Horizon 2	Major Project Coordination Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Plan for accessible and inclusive open spaces</b>						
	Develop design guidelines for open spaces that promote accessibility, inclusivity, and sustainability (Refer Actions 1.5 & 1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure alignment with community needs.</li> <li>• Focus on designing high-quality, multi-functional spaces that promote universal access, sustainability, health, and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Collaborate with developers to integrate these guidelines into new developments, ensuring the inclusion of trail networks that support active transport, enhance biodiversity, and strengthen community connectivity.</li> </ul>	Inclusive, welcoming open spaces that make it easy for people of all ages and abilities to visit and experience	Low	High	Horizon 1	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team  Community Inclusion Team
<b>3.9</b>	<b>Integrate open space into asset management systems for better planning and transparency</b>						
	Allocate resources for open space improvements equitably and transparently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allocate resources for open space improvements based on community needs, accessibility, impact, and feasibility.</li> <li>• Establish clear prioritisation criteria to ensure balanced investment across both urban and rural areas.</li> <li>• Focus on key projects that align with strategic goals and deliver maximum benefits to the entire Shire, using the Capital Works Prioritisation Matrix.</li> </ul>	A proactive, data-driven and comprehensive approach to asset management and service provision.	N/A	High	Horizon 1	Capital Program Management Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team  Project Delivery Team



No.	Action	Tasks	Outcomes	Likely Value	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.10</b>	<b>Continue to collaborate with the community to ensure open spaces meet community needs</b>						
	Enhance community engagement in open space planning through inclusive and ongoing collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen partnerships with local groups, Traditional Owners, and community organisations.</li> <li>Ensure inclusive and culturally safe consultation with Traditional Owners, and with marginalised and/or underrepresented communities.</li> <li>Use diverse engagement platforms to gather broad input, incorporating cultural and ecological knowledge.</li> <li>Establish ongoing feedback loops so open space upgrades continue to reflect evolving community needs and priorities.</li> </ul>	A more equitable, meaningful and effective open space network.	N/A	High	Ongoing	Community Engagement Team Communications Team RAP Working Group
<b>3.11</b>	<b>Meet the growing demand for sporting facilities and infrastructure</b>						
	Support the implementation of the Sports Capacity Plan to meet growing demand and ensure sustainable, inclusive sport and recreation opportunities	Address facility gaps and prioritise upgrades to increase participation in sport and recreation, ensuring access to inclusive, high-quality infrastructure that supports community wellbeing and long-term sustainability.	A proactive approach to continual improvement of sporting facilities and infrastructure and services that meet the needs of the community.	High-Very High (per project)	High	Ongoing	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Peninsula Sports Development Team



PART 7

*Our  
Precinct  
Profiles*

## About the Precinct Profiles

The Precinct Profiles for open space provide a detailed analysis of open space distribution, access, and quality within the Shire. Each profile includes maps that highlight the location, classification, and size of open spaces, as well as an overview of the current and projected population for each precinct. These profiles assess open space provision, access, experience measures, and gaps, offering valuable insights to inform planning decisions and ensure spaces meet the needs of the community now and in the future.

The profiles also provide a summary of key issues, opportunities and actions relating to each area.

This page provides an overview of the Precinct Profile components.

### Experience Access

Access to experiences is modelled on standards from the Planning Framework, using distance tolerances tested with the community through a deliberative engagement process.

Access is calculated for each precinct, with benchmarks tailored to precinct type and expressed as the percentage of residential properties within the specified distance. In some precincts, experiences are measured on a per-town or per-precinct basis.

Example Experience Access



**Gathering Spaces within 400m** 85%

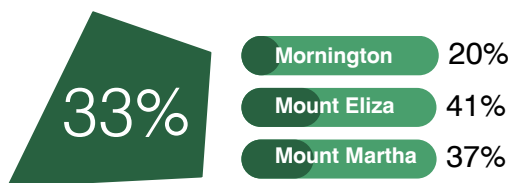
### Priority Gaps

Specific gaps in access to the above experiences are shown in the suburb inset maps. These gap locations are shown when a portion of dwellings fall outside the designated distance for that experience. Priority gaps are only shown in areas of incremental or substantial change as designated by the Housing and Settlement Strategy.

### Canopy Cover

Canopy cover percentages have been sourced from the Urban Forest Strategy Town Profiles. They represent the area of canopy cover as a percentage of the total urban area of a town. The Urban Forest Strategy only considers land within the Urban Growth Boundary and areas outside the Urban Growth Boundary but zoned residential (GRZ and LDRZ). For most townships this is a smaller urban core, not taking into account the entire area.

Example Canopy Cover



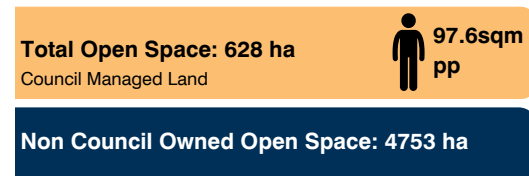
### Open Space Provision

#### Open Space Classification

Open space totals are made up of accessible open space that is owned and managed by Mornington Peninsula Shire, owned by the Shire and managed by a Committee of Management or Crown Land which is managed by Council.

Non Council Land is Crown land owned by the state and managed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria or a DEECA Committee of Management. Council has limited scope to influence the management of these sites but they are important contributions to the open space network and have been taken into consideration when calculating distance based access gaps.

Example Open Space Provision by Classification



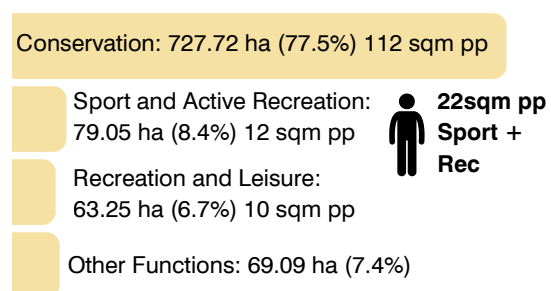
#### Open Space Provision by Function

The totals and percentages for open space provision in this strategy are calculated based on the primary function of each open space parcel. While a parcel may be classified under one function, such as conservation, it may also contain other uses, including sports fields or recreation facilities.

These secondary uses are acknowledged but not separately counted in the provision totals. For example, a reserve with a primary function of conservation may include a sporting field or playground. The classification reflects the dominant role the parcel plays in the open space network.

For more detail on the range of uses within individual parcels, refer to the open space maps and the Open Space Index included in this strategy.

Example Open Space Provision by Function



### Infrastructure Provision

#### Provision Ratios

Infrastructure provision benchmarks have been applied to assess the adequacy of open space and recreational facilities across the municipality. These benchmarks are drawn from a range of credible industry sources and are intended to serve as a guide only. Local needs, geographic context, and future growth should always be considered alongside these ratios.

- Sports fields: Provision ratios are based on adjusted benchmarks from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan (Volume 1 – 3).
- Tennis courts: Benchmarks are informed by Tennis Australia’s average provision ratios.
- Playgrounds: A widely accepted benchmark in Australian planning is 1 playground per 1,500 residents. This is supported by various local government strategies, the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) Practice Notes and PSP Guidelines (2013–current), and endorsed by Parks and Leisure Australia, which recognises a suitable range of 1 playground per 1,500–2,000 people. A more targeted benchmark of 1 playground per 500 children aged 0–14 years, may also be applied in areas with high concentrations of young families.

These industry-average ratios are not prescriptive and should be tested against local conditions, demographic needs, and community expectations.

For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, please refer to the Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).

Example Infrastructure Provision



#### Clarifying Provision Standards Across Planning Frameworks

This Strategy adopts a best practice open space planning lens, focusing on community-wide needs such as access, diversity of use, and informal recreation opportunities. In contrast, sport-specific planning, such as the Sports Capacity Plan Volume 1 - 3, takes a more targeted approach, addressing the infrastructure needs, capacities, and standards required to support organised sport and specific sporting codes.

As a result, there may be some differences in provision standards or priorities when comparing this Strategy with sport-specific plans (e.g. for soccer). These discrepancies reflect the distinct planning goals and user groups of each approach.

While these generally align, the Open Space Strategy seeks to balance multiple community needs, ensuring enough provision to service the community now and into the future, while sport-specific plans are designed to support participation pathways, competition standards, and code-specific infrastructure and growth aspirations.

### Open Space Mapping

The precinct profiles are comprised of a series of maps outlining the distribution and classification of open space throughout the Shire.

Open space insets have been formed using the ABS Urban Centres and Localities boundaries. They have been further divided along township boundaries.

The purpose of the insets is to show urban centres where there are higher concentrations of open space. In some cases the inset boundaries have been edited to show the greatest amount of open space possible.

#### Included Open Space

Only publicly accessible open space zoned as PPRZ or PCRZ has been included in the mapping. Parcels which are not zoned as one of the two have been assessed based on their use and included if performing as an open space reserve or bushland reserve.

#### Inserts and Indexes

Each precinct is broken into multiple insets which are divided along suburb boundaries and centered on urban cores. These insets are accompanied by an index showing the classification, hierarchy and size of each open space parcel. Only open space parcels with a primary or secondary recreation or sport function have been labelled and shown on the indexes in addition to conservation open space with nature as a secondary function. This ensures the maps remain legible and the indexes represent the parks which are most accessible and functional.

### Performance Measures

Performance Measures have been calculated based on performance assessments of 200 sport and recreation open space sites across the Shire.

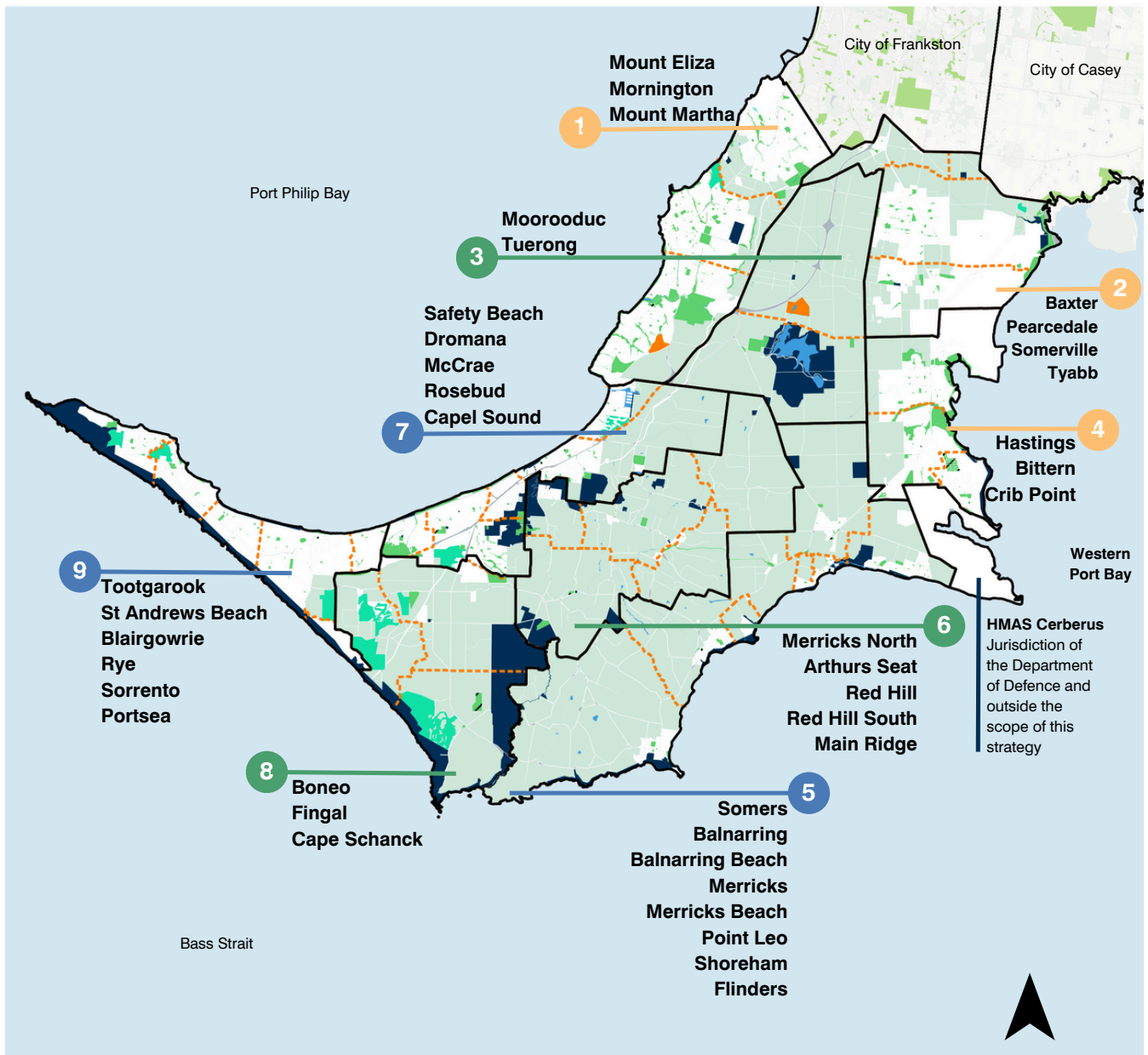
Each category within the performance assessments is based on a series of criteria aligned to the key themes of the strategy. The overall score is calculated as an average of these categories. These scores have been expressed as an average per precinct with the Shire average shown in comparison.

The methodology and performance criteria is attached as an appendix to the open space strategy.











Example Performance Score



# Shire Wide Open Space Map



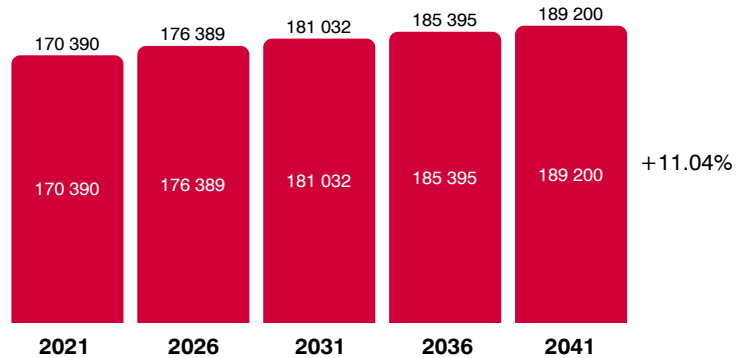
## Legend

 Council Managed Open Space	 Township Boundary	 Coastal Precinct
 Non Council Managed Open Space	 Green Wedge Zone Land	 Residential Precinct
 Council Managed Golf Course	 Water Body	 Rural Precinct
 Private Golf Course		

## Precinct Overview



### Population



Source: forecast.id

### Open Space Provision



Conservation: 2135.7 ha (77.6%) 125 sqm pp

Sport: 238.7 ha (8.7%) 14sqm pp  
25sqmpp Sport & Rec

Recreation: 192.6 ha (7%) 11sqm pp

Other Functions: 184.4 ha (6.7%) 11sqm pp

Non Council Managed Open Space: 4753 ha

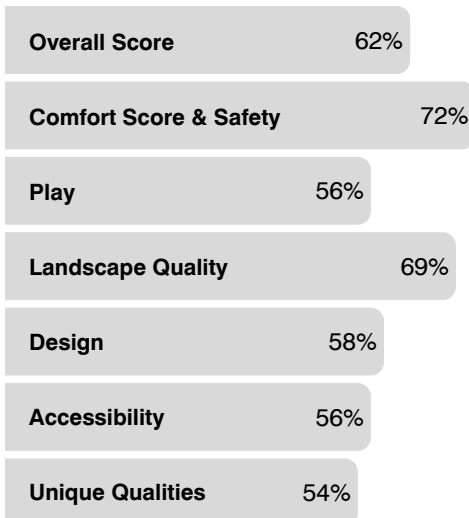
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

### Experience Access

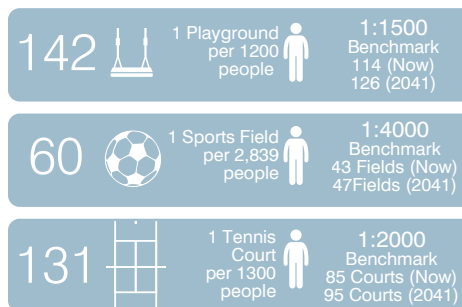


\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

### Performance Measures

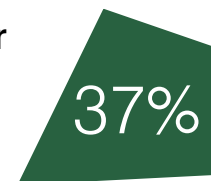


### Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

### Canopy Cover



# Precinct 1

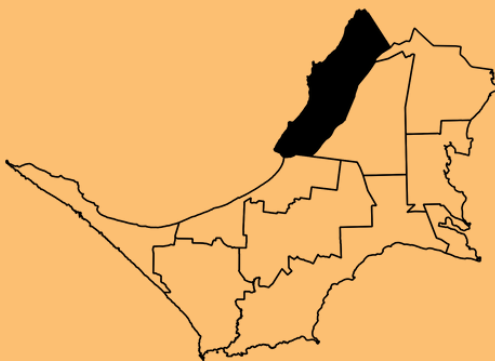
Mount Eliza, Mornington, Mount Martha

## Overview

With a population of 64,852 over 74.5 square kilometres, Precinct 1 stands out as the most urbanised area of the Peninsula, with the town of Mornington the most densely populated at over 870 people per square kilometre. Positioned between Port Phillip Bay to the west and a peri-urban landscape to the east, the towns have access to a variety of natural landscape typologies from coastal dunes and beaches to semi-rural environments with pockets of remnant grassy woodlands, heathy woodlands, and lowland forests.

The west-facing aspect of the precinct's undulating hills provides views across Port Phillip Bay and strengthens the community's focus on coastal living. Over the next two decades the population is set to increase by an average of 12.5% across the precinct with the highest level of growth occurring in Mornington Peninsula.

Precinct Type: **Residential**



# Precinct Overview

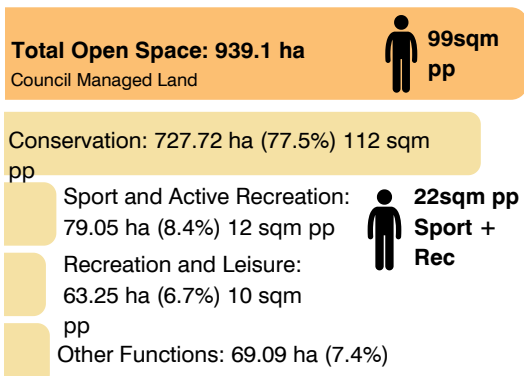


## Population

	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041	
<b>Mount Eliza</b>	64 852 18 923	67 349 19 406	69 256 19 603	71 114 19 750	72 718 19 842	+5%
<b>Mount Martha</b>	20 020	20 731	21 199	21 622	21 930	+10%
<b>Mornington</b>	25 909	27 212	28 454	29 742	30 946	+19%

Source: forecast.id

## Open Space Provision



**Non Council Managed Open Space: 68.2 ha**

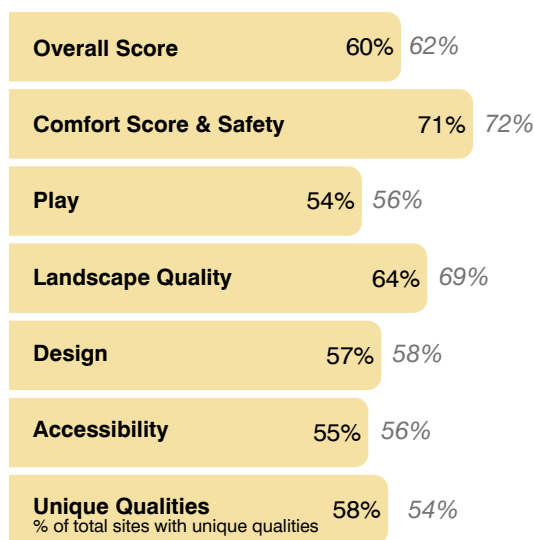
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

## Experience Access



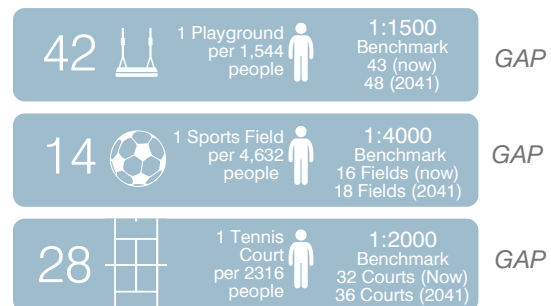
\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

## Performance Measures



\*Shire Average

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan - Volume 1 - 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Canopy Cover



# Precinct 1 Analysis

## Key Issues

Open space in precinct 1 is dominated by large areas of conservation and foreshore space with smaller sport and recreation reserves dispersed in between. Due to its size and population precinct 1 has the highest number of reserves in the Shire.

### Experience Access

Open space for recreation is highly concentrated in some areas of precinct 1 and sparse in areas of Mount Martha and Mount Eliza.

Distribution of sporting ovals is also uneven, however most access is satisfactory through driving.

### Priority Gaps



Mornington - Gap in access to gathering spaces and playgrounds in housing investigation area adjacent to Mornington Racecourse.

### Infrastructure Provision

#### Play Space and Sport Field Gaps

Precinct 1 currently has a notable gap in the provision of sports infrastructure, compared with broader Shire. By 2041, given projected population growth, an additional five play spaces are required, four sports fields, and up to eight sports or tennis courts, to meet the benchmark ratio identified in the Sports Capacity Plan. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, please refer to Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

*Note: Improved access does not necessarily mean constructing new facilities. Alternative approaches such as joint-use agreements, revised management models, and partnerships should also be explored to meet future needs, in the first instance.*

### Coastal Open Space


The precinct is increasingly vulnerable to coastal hazards, particularly erosion and storm tide inundation, with risks worsened by combined catchment and coastal flooding. These hazards affect both the coastline and inland areas, due to limitations in the local drainage network and broader catchment hydrology. The entire precinct has been flagged for further coastal assessment and planning to manage these escalating risks. Additionally, significant environmental and cultural values in the area are increasingly threatened and must be considered in future open space and coastal resilience planning.

### Canopy Cover



Canopy cover in Precinct 1 is below the Shire average but above the State target of 30%.

In Mornington (suburb) canopy cover is 21%, ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest priority in the Urban Forest Strategy for improvement.

 +12.1%  
Growth (2021-2041)

Housing growth is more prominent in precinct 1 particularly in the outskirts of Mornington. Ensuring open space is delivered with new housing is a key challenge and priority.

### Supporting Plans

- Balcombe Estuary Reserve Ecological and Planning Study, 2022
- Briars Master Plan, 2019
- Civic Reserve Master Plan (Mornington), 2008
- Emil Madsen Reserve Master Plan and Report, 2020
- Howard Parker Reserve Master Plan (Mt Martha), 2007
- John Butler Reserve Master Plan (Mt Martha), 2012
- Mills Beach Landscape Master Plan (Mornington), 2012
- Mornington Activity Centre Structure Plan, 2007
- Mornington Coastal Management Plan, 2015
- Mount Eliza Coastal and Marine Management Plan, 2023
- Mount Eliza to Point Nepean Coastal Action Plan, 2021
- Mount Martha Coastal and Marine Management Plan, 2019
- Mount Martha Parade Grounds Master Plan, 2011
- Narambi Recreation Reserve Master Plan and Report (Mornington), 2019
- Peninsula Trail Master Plan, 2024
- Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).

### Park Performance

On average open space quality is on par with the rest of the precincts however there are 8 parks which scored below 40% for performance as follows.

- Jonathon Court Reserve, Mornington 20% (low priority)
- James Court Reserve, Mt Martha 28% (medium priority)
- Summerhill Reserve, Mornington 28% (medium priority)
- JR Anderson Reserve, Mt Martha 32% (medium priority)
- Dorset Road Reserve, Mt Martha 32% (medium priority)
- Murralinga Place Reserve, Mt Eliza 32% (high priority)
- Flinders Park, Mornington 36% (medium priority)
- Marthas Ridge Drive, Mt Martha 36% (medium priority)

### Optimising Under-utilised Open Space

The precinct contains a high number of reserves, some of which are located in close proximity to one another, offer limited function, or have restricted access. This pattern of provision may reduce the overall effectiveness and community value of the open space network.

Within this context, Mornington has been identified as an area of focus for further analysis, given the potential to enhance the performance and use of existing open spaces.

## Precinct 1 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.1</b>	<b>PROTECT: Implement Planning Scheme Amendments to Secure and Strengthen Open Space Outcomes</b>				
	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rezone high priority parcels identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones:</li> </ul> Change to PPRZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wensleydale Drive Reserve (2 parcels) (47)</li> <li>Van Ness Reserve (59)</li> <li>Bentons Square Reserve (61)</li> <li>Oakridge Reserve (2 parcels) (81)</li> <li>Summerfields Wetlands (108)</li> <li>Maddison Hill Estate Park (126)</li> <li>Narambi Station Reserve (45)</li> <li>Cobb Road Reserve (5)</li> <li>Langrigg Avenue Reserve (playground portion of) (93)</li> </ul> Change to PCRZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearwater Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Finlayson Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Greenfield Way Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Gunyong Creek Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Harrap Creek Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Quinton Court Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Seaside Creek Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Sunshine Creek Bushland Reserve - Upper</li> <li>Tanti Creek Bushland Reserve</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team  Planning Services Team
<b>1.7</b>	<b>PROTECT: Proactively plan for the impact of future climate change on open spaces</b>				
	Support the implementation of the Mornington Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Plan and Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy by prioritising actions that help manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change across the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with local environmental, landcare and reserve friends-groups, prioritise open spaces for revegetation and habitat restoration using climate-resilient indigenous species to strengthen ecological corridors and buffer vulnerable habitats, working with ecologists, land managers, and Traditional Owners to map high-priority areas.</li> <li>Protect and deliver open space upgrades near the foreshore in line with Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMPs) and consult the Coastal Strategy modelling and recommendations to ensure upgrades are future-proofed, and proactively select sites and infrastructure for resilience.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Climate Change Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

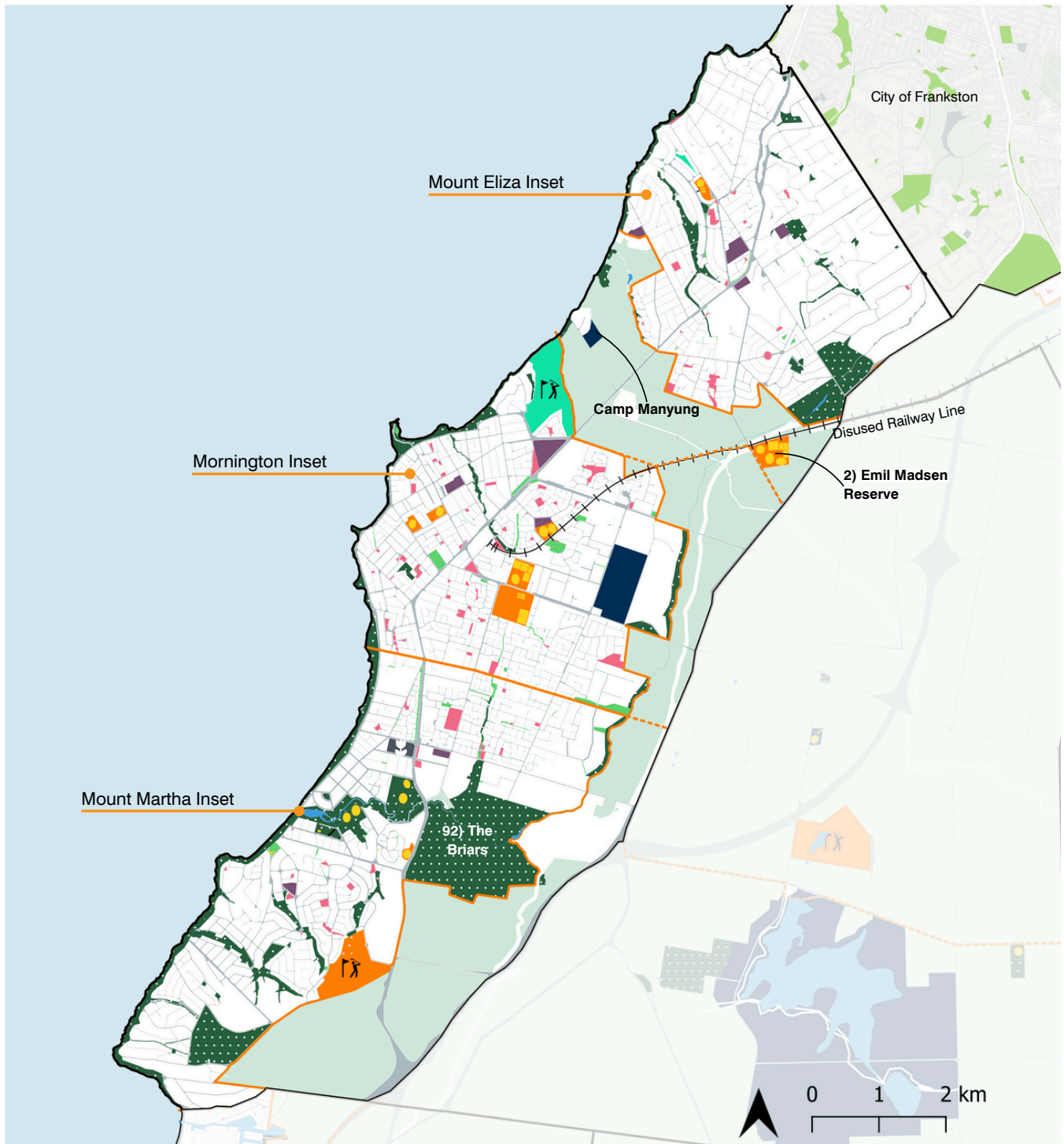
## Precinct 1 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.3	<b>GROW: Develop a clear and actionable open space disposal and acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018</b>				
	Review and rationalise open space by identifying underutilised or redundant sites and implementing a clear, actionable, and transparent Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018, to better meet community needs, improve access, and strategically address open space gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify open space areas that may have limited function, poor access, or are located very close to other similar spaces (within 200 metres). Explore opportunities to enhance the value of these spaces, such as improving their use, combining them with nearby spaces, or repurposing them to better serve the community. Initial areas of focus includes: Mornington, where there may be opportunities to make better use of existing open space.</li> <li>Establish and implement a transparent, equitable land transaction (disposal, acquisition and reallocation) process that aligns with legislation and public acquisition overlays, supported through an assessment of need, benchmarking and community consultation.</li> <li>Integrate with the Property Strategy when due for review.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 2	Property Strategy and Operations Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

## Precinct 1 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.5</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Develop masterplans for under performing reserves</b>				
	Prioritise and develop masterplans for parks and reserves to meet community needs and support sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess, identify and prioritise district or regional open spaces that support complex and overlapping activities, have limited nearby alternatives, or possess unique characteristics and are identified as high-use and or highly sensitive.</li> <li>Engage the community in the planning process to ensure plans reflect local priorities and align with broader Council strategies for sustainability, asset renewal, and infrastructure development.</li> <li>Develop masterplans for district reserves with a performance score below 60%, in line with capital works and asset renewal programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ferrero Reserve, Mt Martha (66)</li> <li>C B Wilson Reserve, Mornington (51)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Investigate and improve pedestrian connectivity between Reserve 20 (Barkly Street Reserve), Reserve 46 (Murray Street Reserve), Reserve 79 (Edward Berry Reserve) and Reserve 6 (D R Morell Reserve).</li> </ul>	Medium - High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout) Ongoing	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>3.6</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Support the implementation of existing masterplans</b>				
	Support the implementation of master/concept plans to enhance the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briars Masterplan (2019-2029), Mt Martha (92): Support ongoing improvements including improved trails and seating, educational signage including Aboriginal cultural stories, play garden and children's garden.</li> <li>Peninsula Trail Master Plan (2024): Support implementation of the preferred alignment of the trail between Moorooduc and Mornington, including connectivity between Mornington Park Primary School and the foreshore (subject to detailed design and further investigation).</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Project Delivery Team

# Precinct 1 Open Space Map













## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

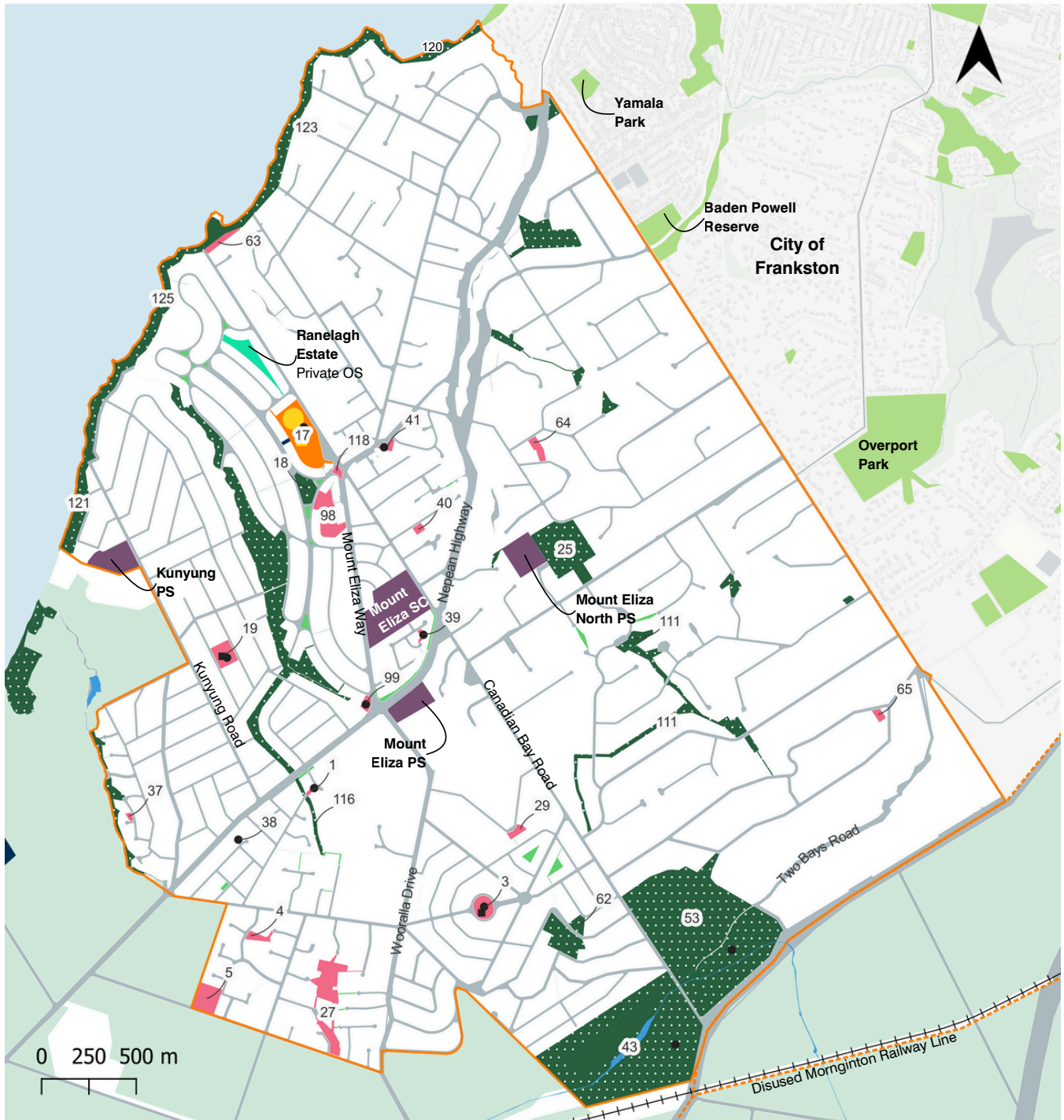
 Sport	 Field of play
 Recreation	 Restricted Access
 Conservation/Foreshore	 Managed as a Bushland Reserve
 Other Functions	

### Other Land

 Non Council Managed Open Space	 Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)
 Open Space in Other Municipalities	 Public Golf Council
 Public School	 Public Golf Council (crown land)
 Railway Line	 Private Golf Course/Club
 Green Wedge Land	

 Township Boundary
Inset Boundary

# Mount Eliza Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- ☙ Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- ⛏ Public Golf Council
- ⛏ Public Golf Council (crown land)
- ⛏ Private Golf Course/Club
- ⋯ Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

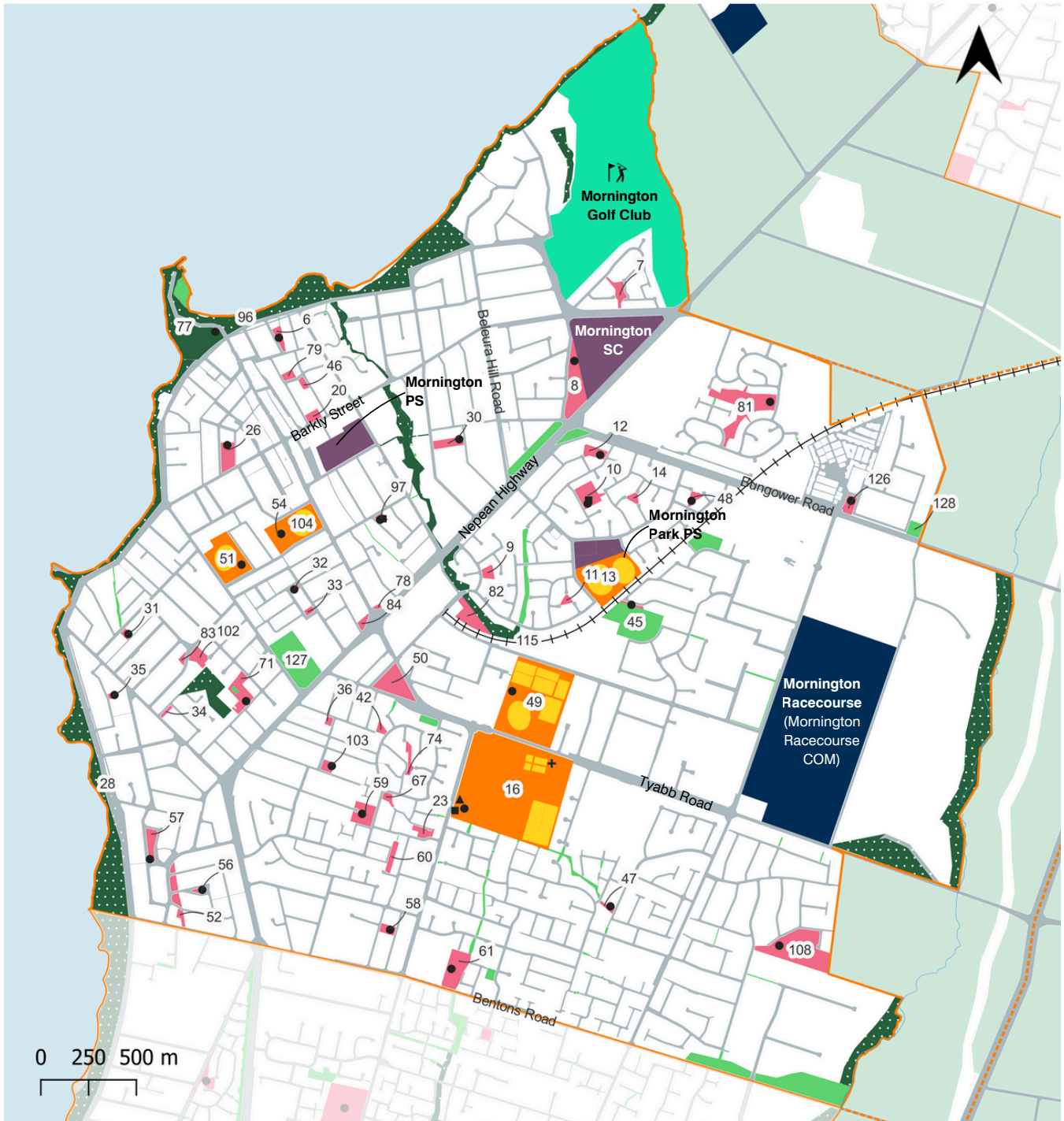
## Mount Eliza Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	Boxmoor Park Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.12
2	Emil Madsen Reserve (precinct 1 map)	Sport	Recreation	Regional	19.59
3	Mount Eliza Park	Recreation		Local	1.05
4	Cameron Way Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.46
5	Cobb Road Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Neighbourhood	1.69
17	Howard Parker Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	4.85
18	J T Smith Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Local	1.16
19	Bruce Cameron Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.25
25	Lorikeet Reserve	Conservation	Sport	Local	6.65
27	Murralinga Place Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	3.77
29	The Ridge Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.36
37	Valley Court Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.11
38	Lisa Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.10
39	Warana Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.17
40	Phyllis Jackson Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.22
41	Rotary Park	Recreation		Local	0.30
43	Mount Eliza Regional Park	Conservation	Recreation	District	36.06
53	Moorooduc Quarry Flora Fauna Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	District	36.66
62	Banool Crescent Reserve	Conservation	Nature	Local	0.55
63	Canadian Bay Road Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.57
64	Sunset Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.55
65	Winona Road Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.27
98	John Butler Reserve	Recreation		Neighbourhood	2.31
99	Rupert White Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.32

## Mount Eliza Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
111	Millbank Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		3.93
116	Earimil Creek Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.80
118	Mt Eliza Village Green	Recreation		Local	0.22
120	Sunnyside to Moondah Beach	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	17.97
121	Earimil Reserve	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	3.37
123	Canadian Bay to Davey's Bay Foreshore	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	10.61
125	Ranelagh Beach	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	4.31

# Mornington Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Mornington Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
6	D R Morell Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.41
7	Cherry Blossom Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.61
8	Tallis Park	Recreation		Local	2.48
9	Summerhill Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.36
10	Currawong Community Centre	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.22
11	Grevillea Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.20
12	Taranna Street Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.62
13	Narambi Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	5.54
14	Narang Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.23
16	Civic Reserve	Sport	Recreation	Regional	26.17
20	Barkly Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.37
23	Hutchins Park	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.44
26	Mornington and District Memorial Park	Recreation		District	1.00
28	Mornington Foreshore	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	40.63
30	S L Butler Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Neighbourhood	0.68
31	Nunns Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.18
32	Iluka Place Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.13
33	Tyalla Grove Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.15
34	Pine Avenue Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.12
35	Pitt Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.14
36	Seaview Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.07
42	Seaview Avenue Walkway	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.22
45	Narambi Station Reserve	Water Management	Recreation	Local	4.13
46	Murray Street Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.19

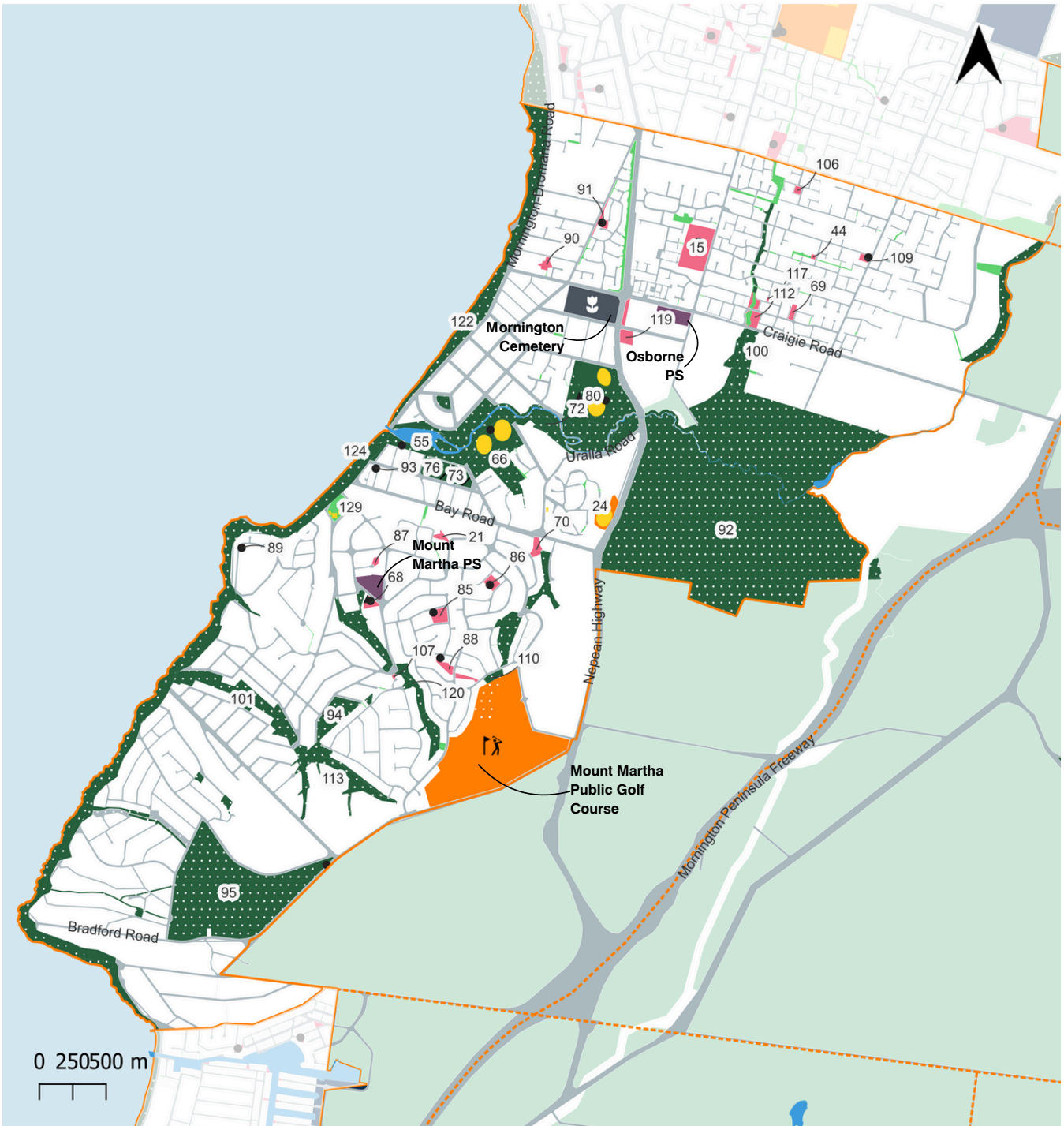
## Mornington Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
47	Wensleydale Drive Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.07
48	Terrigal Street Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.32
49	Dallas Brooks Park	Sport	Recreation	District	12.74
50	Flinders Park	Recreation		Local	1.93
51	C B Wilson Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	3.70
52	Dava Drive Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.85
54	Elsie Dorrington Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	1.36
56	Troon Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.17
57	A C Campbell Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.70
58	Karina-Kiandra Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.36
59	Van Ness Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.16
60	Warilda Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.47
61	Bentons Square Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.89
67	Maxwell Street Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.24
71	Venice Reserve	Recreation		Local	1.19
74	Jonathon Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.40
77	Mornington Park	Conservation	Recreation	Regional	7.45
78	Dr Somers Memorial Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.08
79	Edward Berry Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.26
81	Oakridge Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Neighbourhood	3.63
82	Tanti Creek Reserve	Recreation		Local	1.30
83	Neptune Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.13
84	Apex Park	Recreation		Local	0.23

## Mornington Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
96	Mornington Foreshore	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	16.22
97	Elizabeth Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.22
102	Adelaide Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.64
103	Alameda Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.33
104	Alexandra Park	Sport	Recreation	District	2.64
108	Summerfields Wetlands	Recreation	Water Management	Neighbourhood	4.79
115	Tanti Creek Reserve	Conservation	Nature		1.73
126	Madison Hill Park	Recreation		Local	0.50
127	Mornington Community House Grounds	Other	Recreation	Local	4.07
128	Lindenderry Circuit Drainage Reserve	Water Management	Recreation	Local	0.52

# Mount Martha Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

120

## Mount Martha Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
15	Dunns Road Reserve	Recreation		Neighbourhood	7.22
21	James Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.41
22	Balcombe Estuary Reserve (towards East)	Conservation	Recreation	District	2.09
24	Mace Oval	Sport	Recreation	Neighbourhood	2.47
44	Helen Street Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.12
55	Balcombe Estuary Reserve (towards West)	Conservation	Recreation	Neighbourhood	19.54
66	Ferrero Reserve	Conservation	Sport	District	13.37
68	Ecco Park	Recreation		Neighbourhood	0.68
69	Marthas Ridge Drive	Recreation		Local	0.42
70	Hopetoun / Norfolk Flora and Fauna Reserve (part)	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.81
72	Seppelt Park Reserve	Conservation	Nature	District	1.99
73	Mt Martha Bowling Club	Conservation	Sport	Restricted	2.87
76	Mt Martha Tennis	Conservation	Sport	District	2.09
80	Citation Reserve	Conservation	Sport	District	17.58
85	Walara Reserve	Recreation		Local	1.23
86	Greenlaw Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.77
87	Ramsay Court Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.25
88	Dorset Road Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.19
89	J E Dowdle Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.15
90	Clarkes Avenue Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.57
91	Tolhurst Osborne Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.67

## Mount Martha Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
92	The Briars (precinct 1 map)	Conservation	Recreation	Regional	232.01
93	Langrigg Avenue Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.08
94	Fairbairn Park	Conservation	Recreation	Local	4.74
95	Mount Martha Public Park	Conservation	Recreation	Regional	52.96
100	Craigie Road Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		4.25
101	Sunshine Reserve	Conservation	Nature		10.61
106	Sandhurst Terrace Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.27
107	Hull Road	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.07
109	Harrap Road Reserve	Recreation		Neighbourhood	0.38
110	Norfolk Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.74
112	Craigie Road Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.23
113	Panorama Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		7.90
117	Vogel Avenue Link	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.05
119	J R Anderson Reserve	Recreation		Local	1.48
120	Hove Road Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		2.72
122	Mount Martha Foreshore Reserve	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	10.16
124	Lochiel Avenue Reserve	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	4.33
129	Mount Martha Tennis Club Grounds	Other	Recreation	Neighbourhood	2.04

# Precinct 2

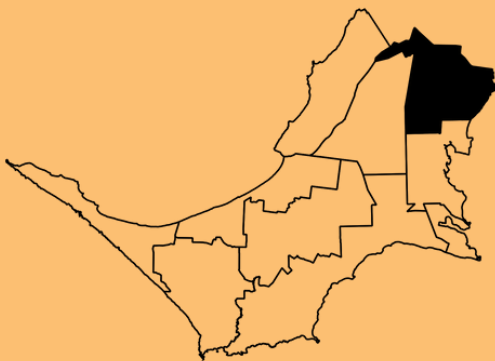
Baxter, Pearcedale, Somerville, Tyabb

## Overview

Encompassing the northeastern edge of the Peninsula, the precinct covers 75 square kilometres with a population of 17,800 across three townships. The large Township of Somerville, the most urbanised, has approximately 12,000 residents, while Baxter and Pearcedale combined have just over 2,000. Characterised by semi-rural landscapes, market gardens, and fragmented ecologies, it includes heathlands, woodlands, and swampy scrubs. Tyabb is projected to grow 30% from 3,511 in 2021 to 4,568 by 2041, while Somerville and Baxter/Pearcedale are expected to see modest growth of 5% and 7%, respectively.

Open space in precinct 2 has a more urban quality with a lower proportion of native bushland in the urban centres and more open space for sport and recreation.

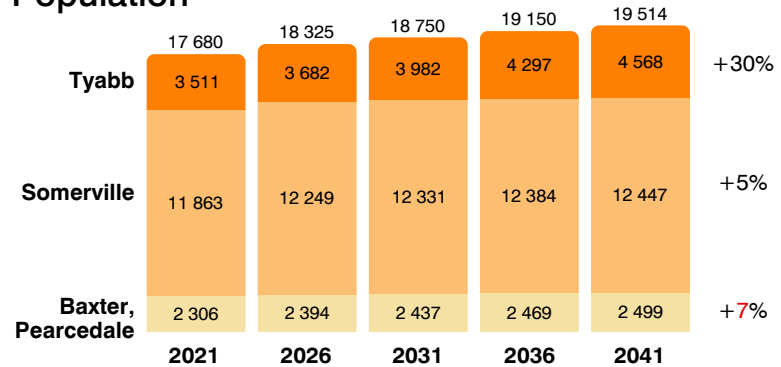
Precinct Type: **Residential**



# Precinct Overview

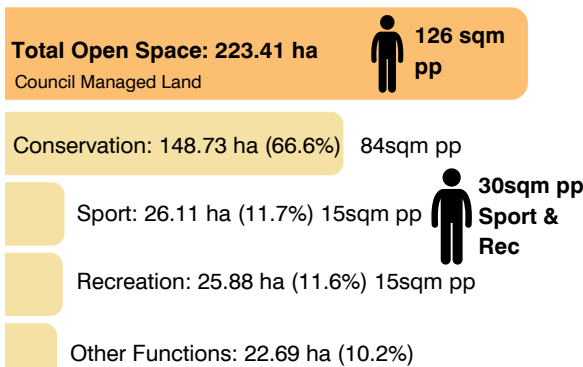


## Population



Source: forecast .id

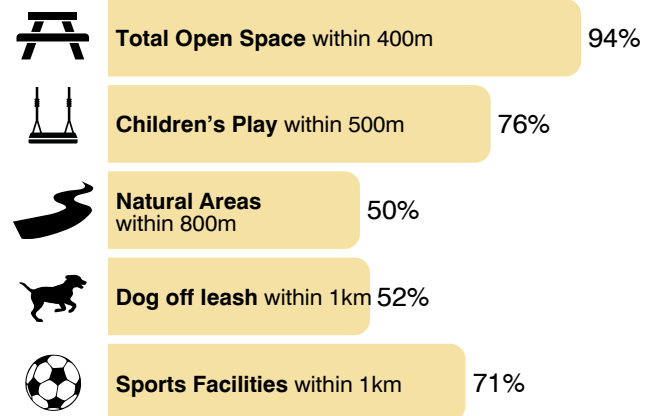
## Open Space Provision



**Non Council Managed Open Space: 60.6 ha**

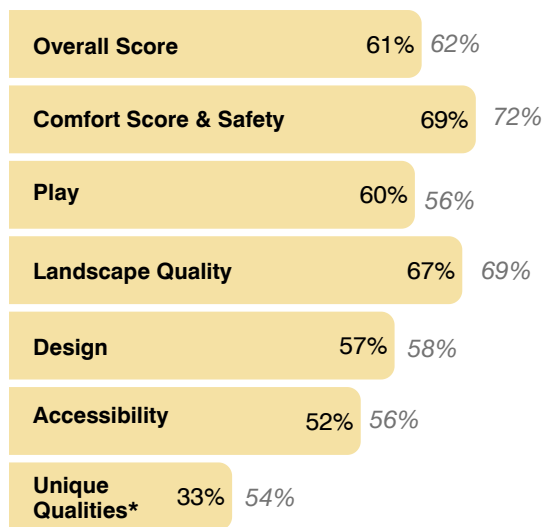
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

## Experience Access



\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

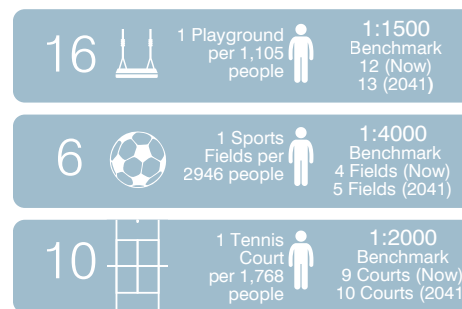
## Performance Measures



\*% of total sites with unique qualities

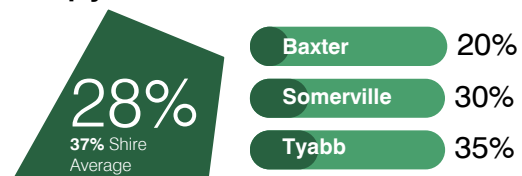
\*Shire Average

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Canopy Cover



# Precinct 2 Analysis




## Key Issues

Open space provision in precinct 2 has a lower quantity of conservation open space than the other Residential Precincts.

### Open Space Access

Open space distribution is good in the areas of higher urban density in precinct 2. There is a lack of natural areas throughout the precinct particularly in the urban centres with parks mostly serving a recreation function with little native bushland.

### Priority Gaps

-  Somerville - 2 Gaps in access to dog off leash spaces to the south east of the railway line
-  Somerville - Gap in access to natural spaces to the east of the railway line.
-  Tyabb - Gap in access to natural spaces in the north of the urban core

### Park Performance

On average open space quality is on par with the rest of the precincts however there are 3 parks which scored below 40% for performance as follows.

- Sinclair Street Reserve, Somerville 24% (high priority)
- Penton Park, Somerville 36% (high priority)

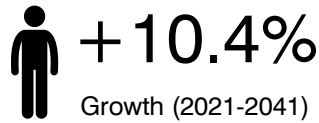
There is an overprovision of playgrounds within the precinct. In particular, 3 playgrounds in Somerville are within 500 meters of each other.

There are gaps in dog off leash areas in Somerville.

### Optimising Under-utilised Open Space

The precinct contains a high number of reserves, some of which are located in close proximity to one another, offer limited function, or have restricted access. This pattern of provision may reduce the overall effectiveness and community value of the open space network.

Within this context, Somerville has been identified as an area of focus for further analysis, given the potential to enhance the performance and use of existing open spaces.



Housing growth is more prominent in the suburb of Somerville. Ensuring open space is delivered with new housing is a key challenge and priority.

### Port of Hastings

A significant portion of this precinct is made up of the Port of Hastings State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land area. This land is designated Special Use Zone 1 and is intended to be protected for future expansion of the Port and port related industries. The planning of this area is controlled by the Port of Hastings Corporation. Housing and open space within this area is minimal.

### Supporting Plans

- Baxter Township Structure Plan, 2019
- Bungayun Reserve and Tyabb Central Reserve Masterplan, 2012
- Somerville Township Structure Plan, 2019
- Tyabb Township Plan, 2012
- Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).

### Canopy Cover



Canopy cover in precinct 2 is just below the state target of 30% and well below the Shire average of 37%. In Baxter it is 20%, ranked the second highest priority township in the Urban Forest Strategy for improvement.

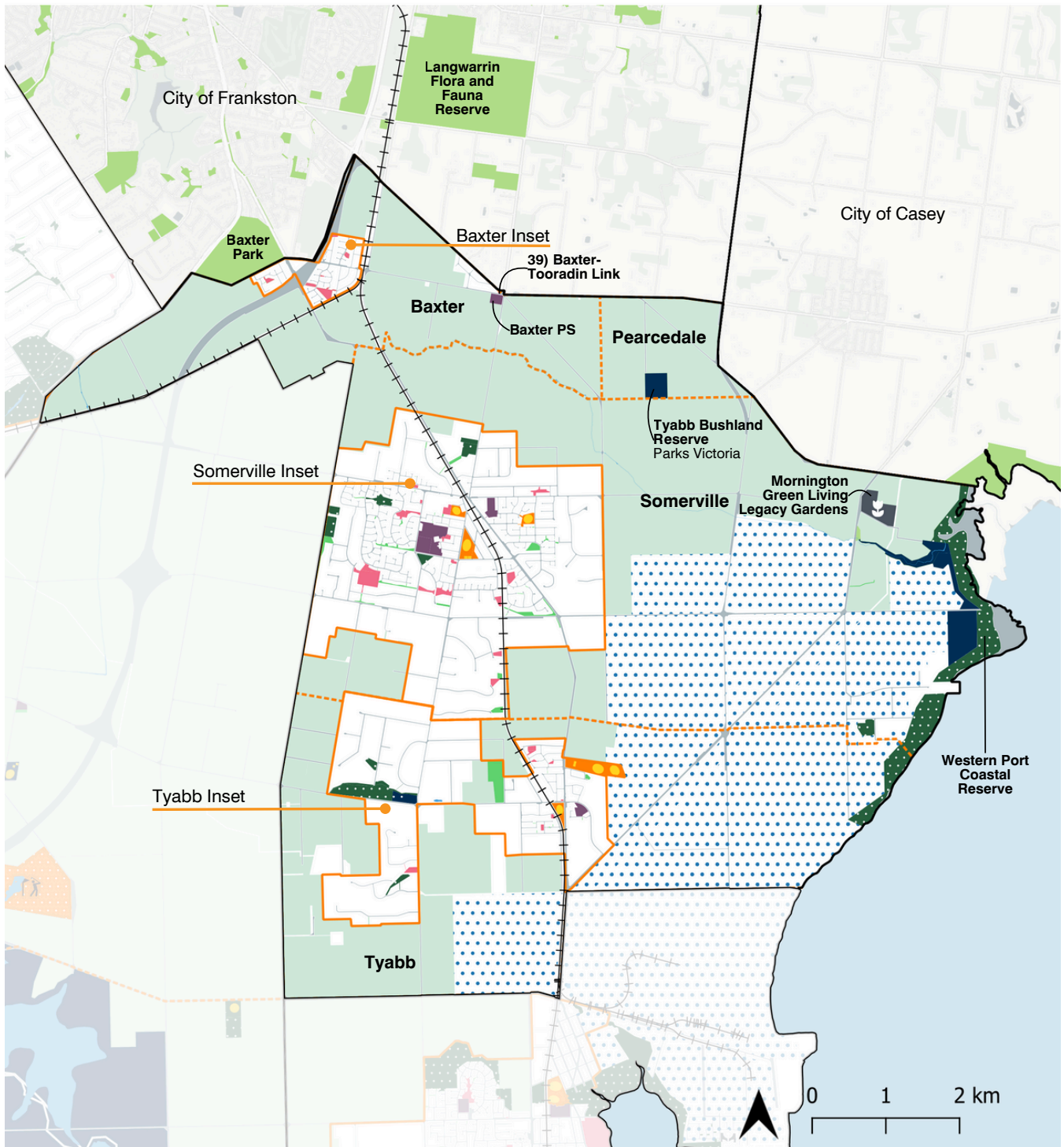
## Precinct 2 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.1</b>	<b>PROTECT: Implement Planning Scheme Amendments to Secure and Strengthen Open Space Outcomes</b>				
	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rezone high priority parcels identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones:</li> </ul> Change to PPRZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clairmont Close Reserve (7)</li> <li>Barber Reserve (entrance only) (37)</li> <li>Banksia Reserve (40)</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team  Planning Services Team
<b>1.3</b>	<b>PROTECT: Ensure everyone has easy access to natural open spaces</b>				
	Explore the potential to transform reserves with limited infrastructure into 'natural' spaces that prioritise walking paths and support biodiversity conservation <i>*Design improvements in consultation with drainage engineer to ensure drainage function isn't compromised. NB. Prioritisation based on urban areas of the Shire which fall outside the minimum distance to natural areas as defined in the experience standards.</i>	Prioritise the following reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deanswood Drive Reserve (1), Somerville</li> <li>Todd Grove Recreation Reserve (34), Somerville</li> <li>Kinlora Drive Drainage Reserve*, Somerville</li> <li>Delepan Drive Reserve (2), Tyabb</li> <li>Seribu Close Reserve (31), Tyabb</li> <li>Rotaract Park (33), Tyabb</li> <li>Bunguyung Reserve (38), Tyabb</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Climate Change Team  Natural Systems Team  Open Space Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Develop a clear and actionable open space Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018</b>				
	Review and rationalise open space by identifying underutilised or redundant sites and implementing a clear, actionable, and transparent Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018, to better meet community needs, improve access, and strategically address open space gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify open space areas that may have limited function, poor access, or are located very close to other similar spaces (within 200 metres). Explore opportunities to enhance the value of these spaces, such as improving their use, combining them with nearby spaces, or repurposing them to better serve the community. Initial areas of focus includes: Somerville, where there may be opportunities to make better use of existing open space.</li> <li>Establish and implement a transparent, equitable land transaction (disposal, acquisition and reallocation) process that aligns with legislation and public acquisition overlays, supported through an assessment of need, benchmarking and community consultation.</li> <li>Integrate with the Property Strategy when due for review.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 2	Property Strategy and Operations Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

## Precinct 2 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.1	<b>OPTIMISE: Improve the quality of open space in priority areas.</b>				
	<p>Enhance the quality and functionality of key reserves, prioritising parks with limited nearby alternatives, and low performance ratings.</p> <p><i>**Reserves have been prioritised where there are no other higher-performing reserves nearby</i></p> <p><i>**All recommendations should be tested with the local community to confirm priorities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the quality of Penton Park, Somerville (28) or Sinclair Street, Somerville (32) with the addition of park furniture and planting to improve recreation experiences in this area.</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	<p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p> <p>Project Delivery Team</p>
3.2	<b>OPTIMISE: Address recreational pressure from off-leash dog activities through alternative solutions.</b>				
	<p>Investigate the provision of dog off-leash areas based on community feedback and in alignment with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Dogs in Public Places Policy 2024, ensuring access targets are met across all precincts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate suitability of open space in the East of Somerville for a dog off leash area.</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 3	<p>Community Safety Team</p> <p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>
3.3	<b>OPTIMISE: Better distribute play opportunities</b>				
	<p>Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015–2020 and assess opportunities to address gaps in play provision, while rationalising playgrounds in precincts with both oversupply and unmet demand to ensure equitable and efficient access across the Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify underutilised or redundant playgrounds (such as those with nearby play spaces within 200m, small sizes, poor access, or limited infrastructure)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somerville: Explore consolidating play experiences at Penton Park (28) and Somerville Recreation Reserve (26), focusing on two higher-value sites within a 200m catchment</li> </ul> </li> <li>Explore options for redeploying or repurposing these spaces to better meet community needs and improve recreational opportunities in high-demand areas</li> </ul>	High	<p>Horizon 1 (Planning)</p> <p>Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)</p>	<p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>

# Precinct 2 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

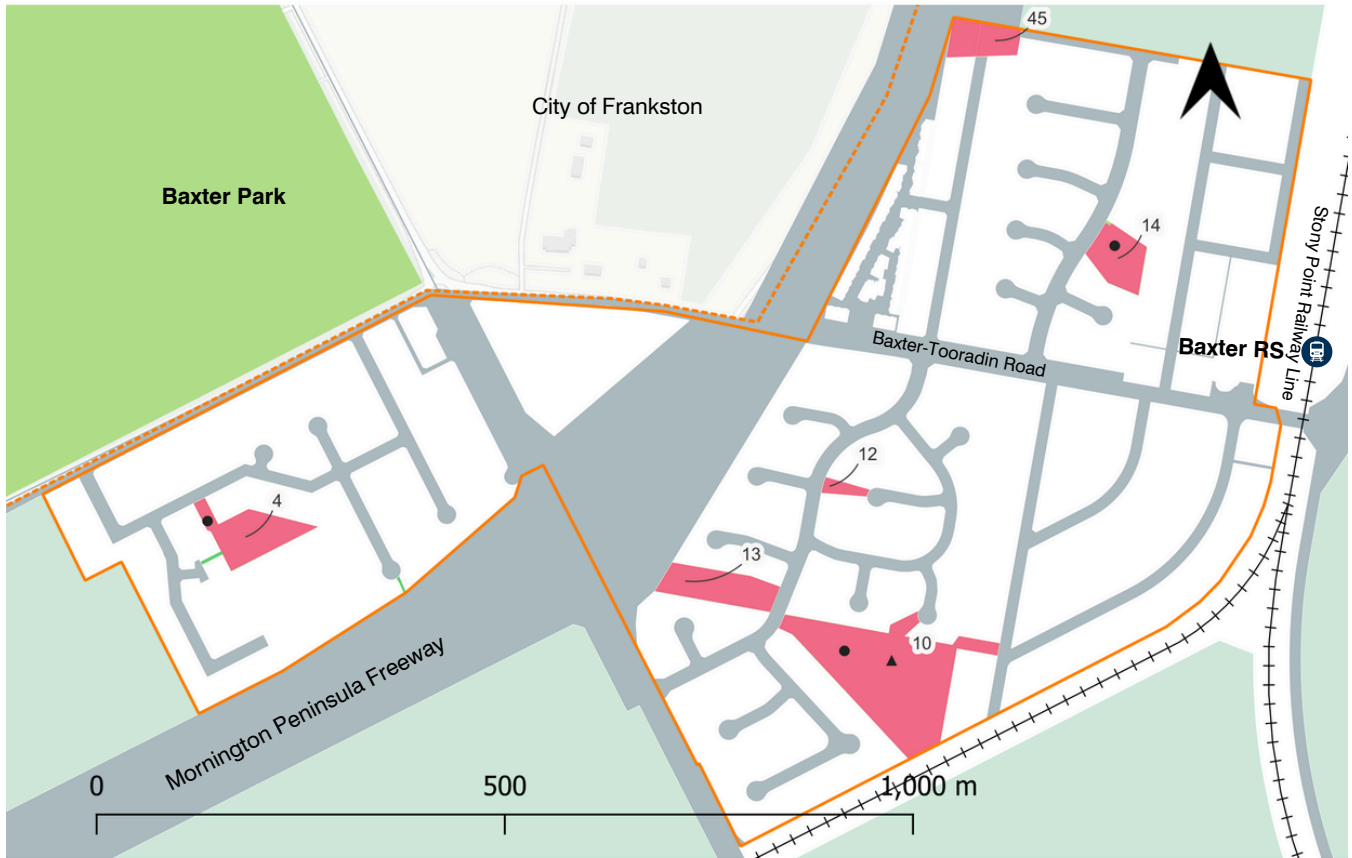
- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Field of play
- Restricted Access
- Managed as a Bushland Reserve

### Other Land

- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Open Space in Other Municipalities
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club

- Township Boundary
- Inset Boundary

# Baxter Inset & Index

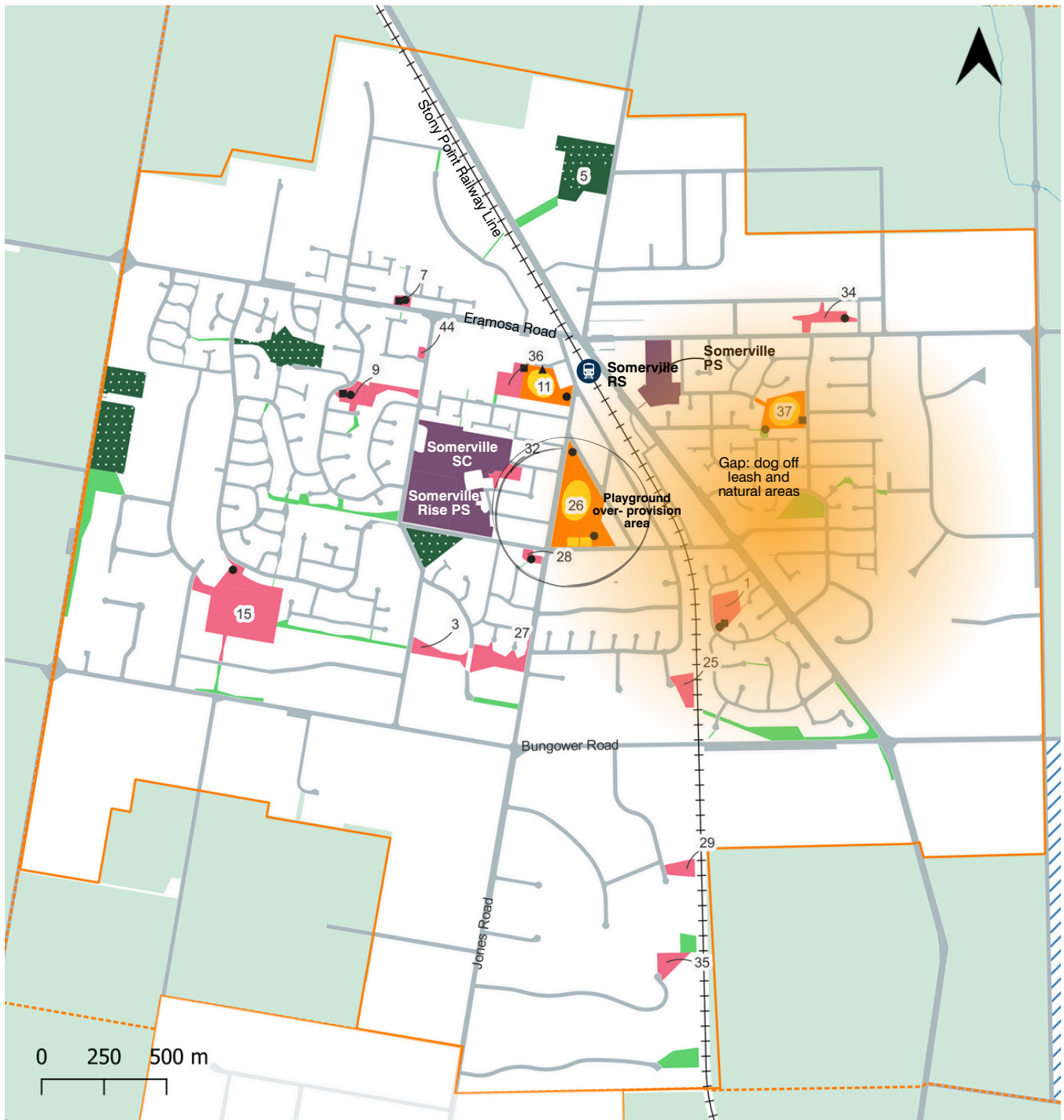


## Legend

Open Space Primary Function		Other Land		Play Assets	
Sport	Field of play	Cemetery	Public Golf Council	Playground	
Recreation	Priority Access Gap	Public School	Public Golf Council (crown land)	Skate/BMX	
Conservation/Foreshore	Restricted Access	Railway Line	Private Golf Course/Club	Outdoor Fitness Station	
Other Functions	Non Council Managed Open Space	Green Wedge Land	Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)	Basketball/halfcourt	
Bushland Reserve					

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
4	Austral Crescent Reserve	Recreation	Other	Local	0.56
10	Harold Reid Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Neighbourhood	1.99
12	Olstead Drive Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.05
13	Bramblefield Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.53
14	Jacarandra Drive Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.40
39	Baxter-Tooradin Link (precinct 2 map)	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.06
45	Stronoway Drive Reserve	Recreation		Neighbourhood	0.19

# Somerville Inset



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Playground over-provision

#### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

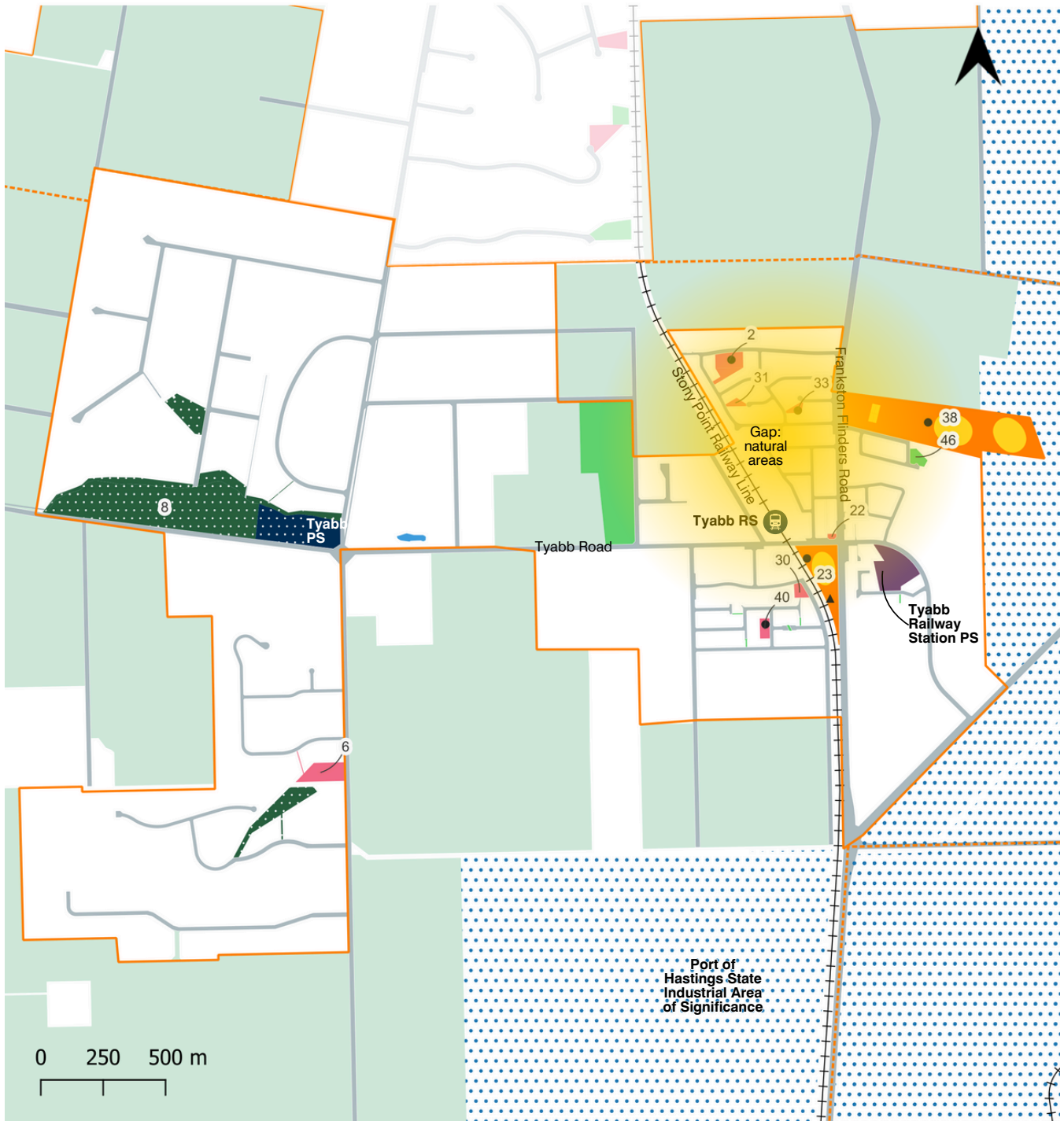
#### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Somerville Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	Deanswood Drive Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.38
3	Austin Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.87
5	Grant Road Reserve	Environmental Conservation	Recreation	Neighbourhood	4.52
7	Clairmont Close Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.27
9	Colchester Park	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.67
11	Fruit Growers Reserve	Sport	Recreation	Neighbourhood	2.36
15	Barakee Drive Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Neighbourhood	7.18
25	Inverness Court Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.86
26	Somerville Recreation Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	6.02
27	William Gomm Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.69
28	Penton Park	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.31
29	Radnor Rise Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.66
32	Sinclair Street Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.61
34	Todd Grove Recreation Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.07
35	Vista Court Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.81
36	Somerville Recreation Centre	Recreation		Neighbourhood	1.15
37	Barber Reserve	Sport	Recreation	Neighbourhood	2.51
44	Beaconsfield Court Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.13

# Tyabb Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

### Play Assets

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)
- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Tyabb Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
2	Delepan Drive Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.99
6	Island View Drive Reserve	Recreation		Local	1.23
8	Olivers Creek Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		15.72
22	Tyabb Town Park	Recreation		Local	0.07
23	Tyabb Central Reserve	Sport	Recreation	Neighbourhood	2.80
30	Western Port Lions Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.25
31	Seribu Close Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.17
33	Rotaract Park	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.18
38	Bunguyan Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	12.42
40	Banksia Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.31
46	Stella Avenue Drainage Reserve	Water Management	Recreation	Local	0.34

# Precinct 3

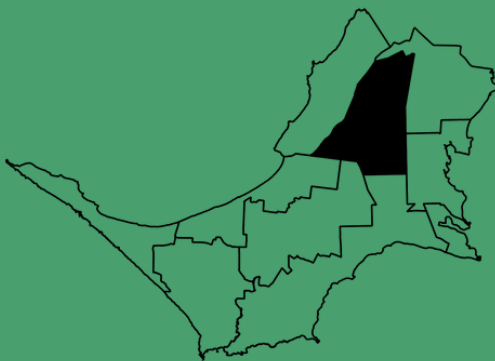
Moorooduc, Tuerong

## Overview

In contrast to adjacent Precinct 1, this precinct has the lowest density at 16.8 people per square kilometre, with 1,364 residents across 81 square kilometres.

Entirely within the Green Wedge Zone, it features small agricultural holdings, wineries, orchards, and improved pastures. The Devil Bend Natural Features Reservoir and associated bushland reserve dominate the open space network, while sparse, degraded remnant ecologies include lowland forests and scattered woodlands. Protected by the Green Wedge Zone, the area's population is stable, with a forecasted 2% increase over the next two decades.

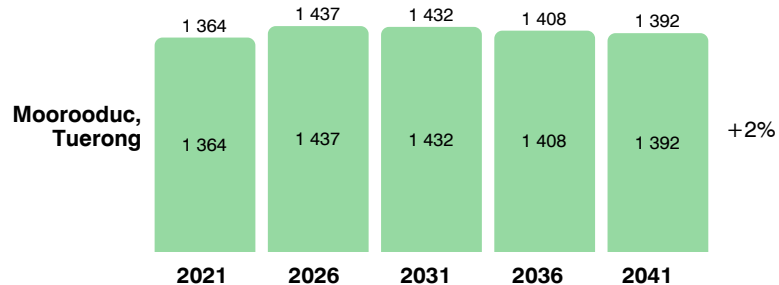
Precinct Type: **Rural**



# Precinct Overview

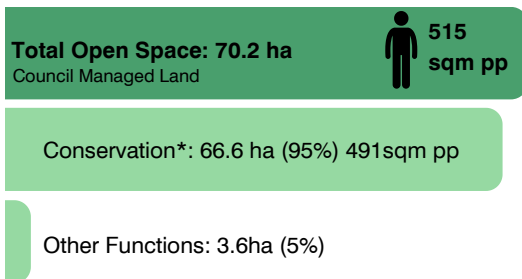


## Population



Source: forecast .id

## Open Space Provision

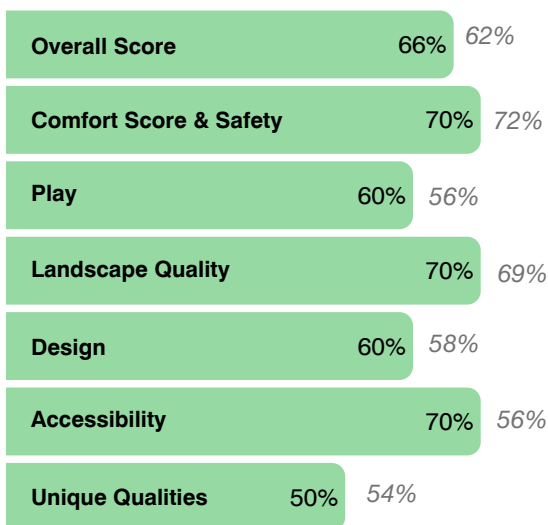


\*NB: sports oval is available (secondary function) within Conservation (primary function) open space refer pg. 124, RM Hooper oval.

**Non Council Managed Open Space: 1066 ha**

\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

## Performance Measures



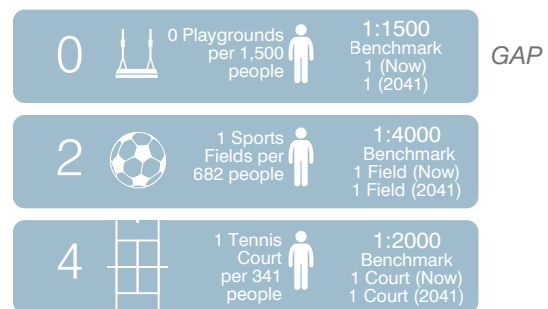
% of total sites with unique qualities \*Shire Average

## Experience Access



\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan - Volume 1 - 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Precinct 3 Analysis

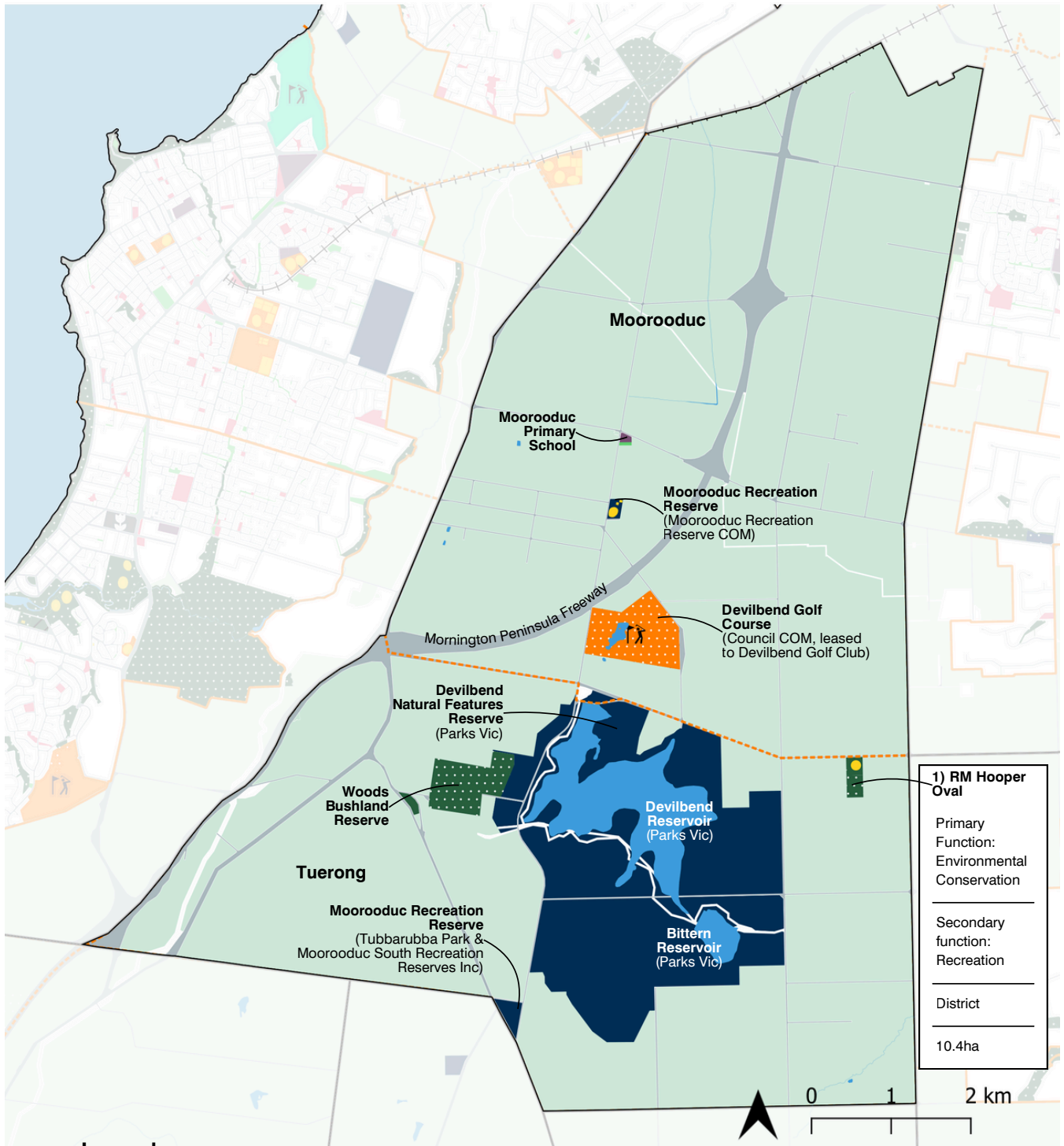
Open Space in precinct 3 almost entirely serves a conservation purpose with 2 multifunctional sporting reserves adequately serving the small resident population.

The majority of open space is managed by Parks Victoria or DEECA Committees of Management. Precinct 3 has no playgrounds despite having the population to support one.

## Precinct 3 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.3	<b>OPTIMISE: Better distribute play opportunities</b>				
	Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015–2020 and assess opportunities to address gaps in play provision, while rationalising playgrounds in precincts with both oversupply and unmet demand to ensure equitable and efficient access across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the opportunity to develop a playground at RM Hooper Reserve to fill the playground gap in this precinct</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

# Precinct 3 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

- Sport
- Field of play
- Recreation
- Other Functions
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Restricted Access
- Managed as a Bushland Reserve

### Other Land

- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Open Space in Other Municipalities
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club

- Township Boundary
- Inset Boundary

# Precinct 4

Hastings, Bittern, Crib Point

## Overview

Located on the eastern edge of the Green Wedge, Precinct 4 has approximately 18,000 residents across 50 square kilometres, making it the most densely populated area on the Western Port side. Hastings is a major activity centre, while Bittern and Crib Point are local town centres. The sense of place is industrial due to the area's proximity to an industrial port and HMAS Cerberus. The precinct features Ramsar-listed coastal wetlands, endangered heath ecologies, and opportunities for nature-based recreation and tourism, with scenic views across Western Port to French Island. Growth is modest, with Hastings' population projected to rise by 9% by 2041.

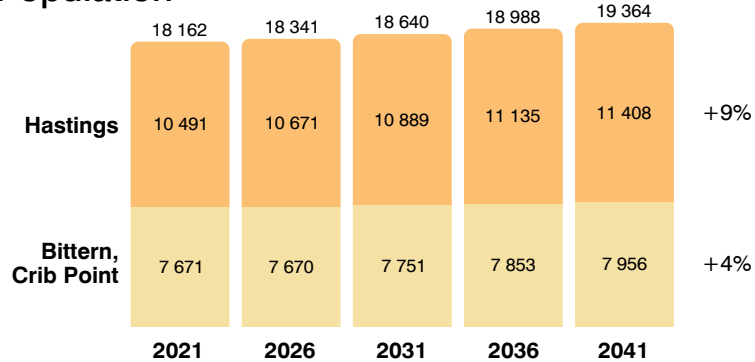
Precinct Type: **Residential**



# Precinct Overview

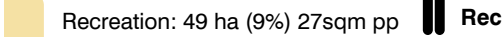
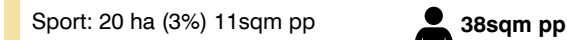
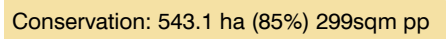
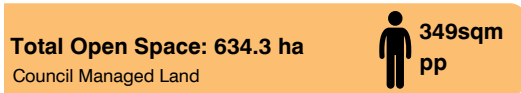


## Population



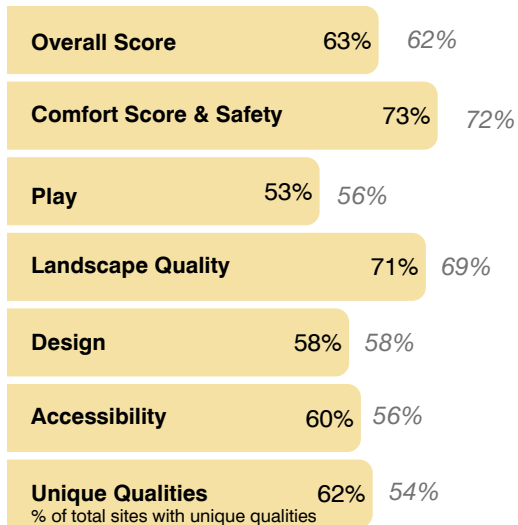
Source: forecast .id

## Open Space Provision



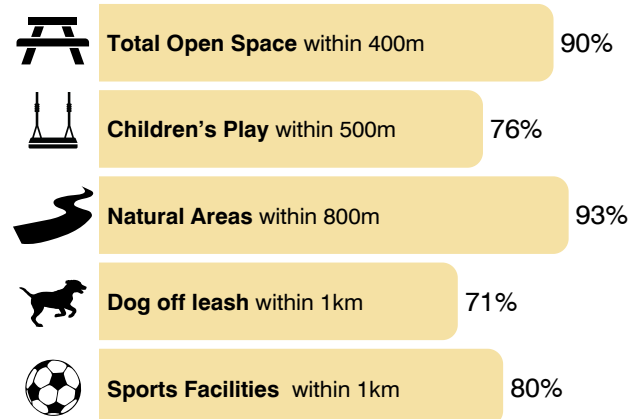
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

## Performance Measures



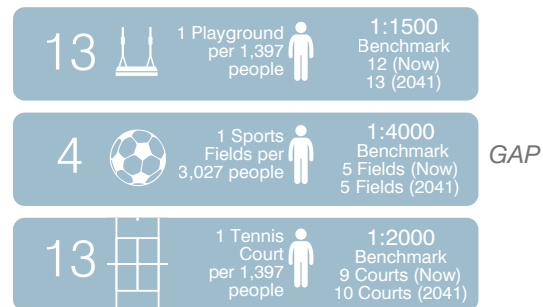
\*Shire Average

## Experience Access



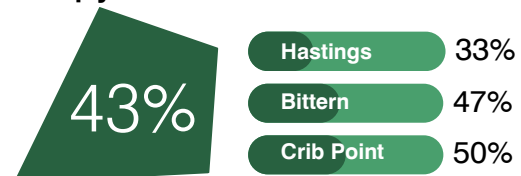
\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Canopy Cover



# Precinct 4 Analysis

## Key Issues

Provision of open space is good in precinct 4 with an above average amount of open space primarily for sport and recreation purposes.

### Experience Access

Open space distribution is generally good with gaps mainly appearing in the periphery of townships in lower density areas.

Provision of playgrounds within the precinct is on par but may fall below the benchmark with population growth.

Provision of sports fields is adequate in the urban core but falls below the benchmark for the current population by 1 oval.

### Priority Gaps

There are two priority gaps in the precinct both in Hastings.



Hastings - Gap in the north of the urban core for access to all open space



Hastings - Gap in central Hastings for access to playgrounds

### Infrastructure Provision

Precinct 4 could benefit from access to an additional sports field. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, please refer to the Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).

*Note: Improved access does not necessarily mean constructing new facilities. Alternative approaches such as joint-use agreements, revised management models, and partnerships should also be explored to meet future needs, in the first instance.*

### Park Performance

On average open space is performing on par with the rest of the Shire with playgrounds performing slightly better than other precincts.

One audited park scored below 30% in terms of overall performance.

- The Bittern Boulevard, Bittern 28% (high priority)

### Optimising Under-utilised Open Space

The precinct contains a high number of reserves, some of which are located in close proximity to one another, offer limited function, or have restricted access. This pattern of provision may reduce the overall effectiveness and community value of the open space network.

Within this context, Hastings has been identified as an area of focus for further analysis, given the potential to enhance the performance and use of existing open spaces.

### Coastal Open Space

Like many coastal areas, this precinct is expected to face increasing exposure to natural coastal processes over time. This includes the potential for more frequent erosion, storm surges and, in the longer term, permanent tidal inundation in some locations.

These changes may gradually affect a range of public and environmental assets, including community facilities, local infrastructure (such as drainage, sewage, water and electricity), coastal vegetation and habitats, and areas of cultural and environmental significance.

By planning ahead, we can better understand and manage these risks to ensure the long-term protection, accessibility and resilience of our coastal open spaces.

Hastings has been identified as a focus area for coastal planning as it faces both increasing inundation (both temporary and more permanent) and erosion risks, particularly around the Hastings foreshore reserve and surrounding areas. These areas also hold various important assets and services key to liveability, economy and enjoyment of Hastings township. Unique and special coastal and marine vegetation and habitats are also at risk including Ramsar Wetlands, and areas associated with First Nations culture.

*Our Coast Our Future Strategy*

### Supporting Plans

- Crib Point Township Structure Plan, 2021
- Hastings Coastal Management Plan, 2015
- Hastings Town Centre Structure Plan, 2017
- Hastings Foreshore Masterplan, 2023
- Western Port Coastal Villages Surrounding Settlements Strategy, 2019
- Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).

## Precinct 4 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.1</b>	<b>PROTECT: Implement Planning Scheme Amendments to Secure and Strengthen Open Space Outcomes</b>				
	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rezone high priority parcels identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones: Change to PPRZ:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flinders Sreet Reserve (25)</li> <li>Arthur W Peterson Reserve (15)</li> <li>Tara Drive Reserve (8)</li> <li>Barcoo Street Playground (27)</li> <li>Olivia Way Park (28)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Change to PCRZ:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dartnell Reserve (40)</li> <li>King Creek Bushland Reserve - South</li> <li>Warringine Park - Coastal</li> <li>Warringine Park - Creek</li> <li>Warringine Park - Woodland</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team Planning Services Team
<b>1.3</b>	<b>PROTECT: Ensure everyone has easy access to natural open spaces</b>				
	Explore the potential to transform reserves with limited infrastructure into 'natural' spaces that prioritise walking paths and support biodiversity conservation	Prioritise the following reserves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hastings Foreshore Reserve (6 and 12), Hastings (ensuring alignment with Hastings Foreshore Masterplan 2023).</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Climate Change Team Natural Systems Team Open Space Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>1.7</b>	<b>PROTECT: Proactively plan for the impact of future climate change on open spaces</b>				
	Support the implementation of the Mornington Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Plan and Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy by prioritising actions that help manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change across the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with local environmental, landcare and reserve friends-groups, prioritise open spaces for revegetation and habitat restoration using climate-resilient indigenous species to strengthen ecological corridors and buffer vulnerable habitats, working with ecologists, land managers, and Traditional Owners to map high-priority areas.</li> <li>Protect and deliver open space upgrades near the foreshore in line with Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMPs) and consult the Coastal Strategy modelling and recommendations to ensure upgrades are future-proofed, and proactively select sites and infrastructure for resilience.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Climate Change Team Natural Systems Team Open Space Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

## Precinct 4 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>2.1</b>	<b>GROW: Expand and improve open space in priority locations.</b>				
	Enhance accessibility to open space by addressing walkability gaps within urban areas of the Shire. Prioritise identifying and developing key locations for new or expanded open spaces, ensuring all residents have convenient access to recreational areas, with a focus on areas designated for future growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with VicTrack to improve access and develop a new local park along the rail corridor in North Hastings, addressing the open space gap near Tyabb Railway Reserve.</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Develop a clear and actionable open space Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018</b>				
	Review and rationalise open space by identifying underutilised or redundant sites and implementing a clear, actionable, and transparent Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018, to better meet community needs, improve access, and strategically address open space gaps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify open space areas that may have limited function, poor access, or are located very close to other similar spaces (within 200 metres). Explore opportunities to enhance the value of these spaces, such as improving their use, combining them with nearby spaces, or repurposing them to better serve the community. Initial area of focus includes: <b>Hastings</b>, where there may be opportunities to make better use of existing open space.</li> <li>Establish and implement a transparent, equitable land transaction (disposal, acquisition and reallocation) process that aligns with legislation and public acquisition overlays, supported through an assessment of need, benchmarking and community consultation.</li> <li>Integrate with the Property Strategy when due for review.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 2	Property Strategy and Operations Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>2.6</b>	<b>GROW: Partner with schools to share open space for mutual benefit</b>				
	Develop a plan to work with schools to facilitate shared access to open spaces, including playgrounds and ovals, in areas with gaps in open space provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop shared use agreements for playgrounds, ovals, and other facilities.</li> <li>Consider after-hours access through measures like open gates or signage.</li> <li>Align the approach with the Plan for Victoria.</li> <li>Identify schools in areas with open space gaps.</li> <li>Enter into negotiations with the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hastings Primary School</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 3	Property Strategy and Operations Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Peninsula Sports Development Team
Open Space Strategy 2025-2040   Mornington Peninsula Shire Council   Final   November 2025					

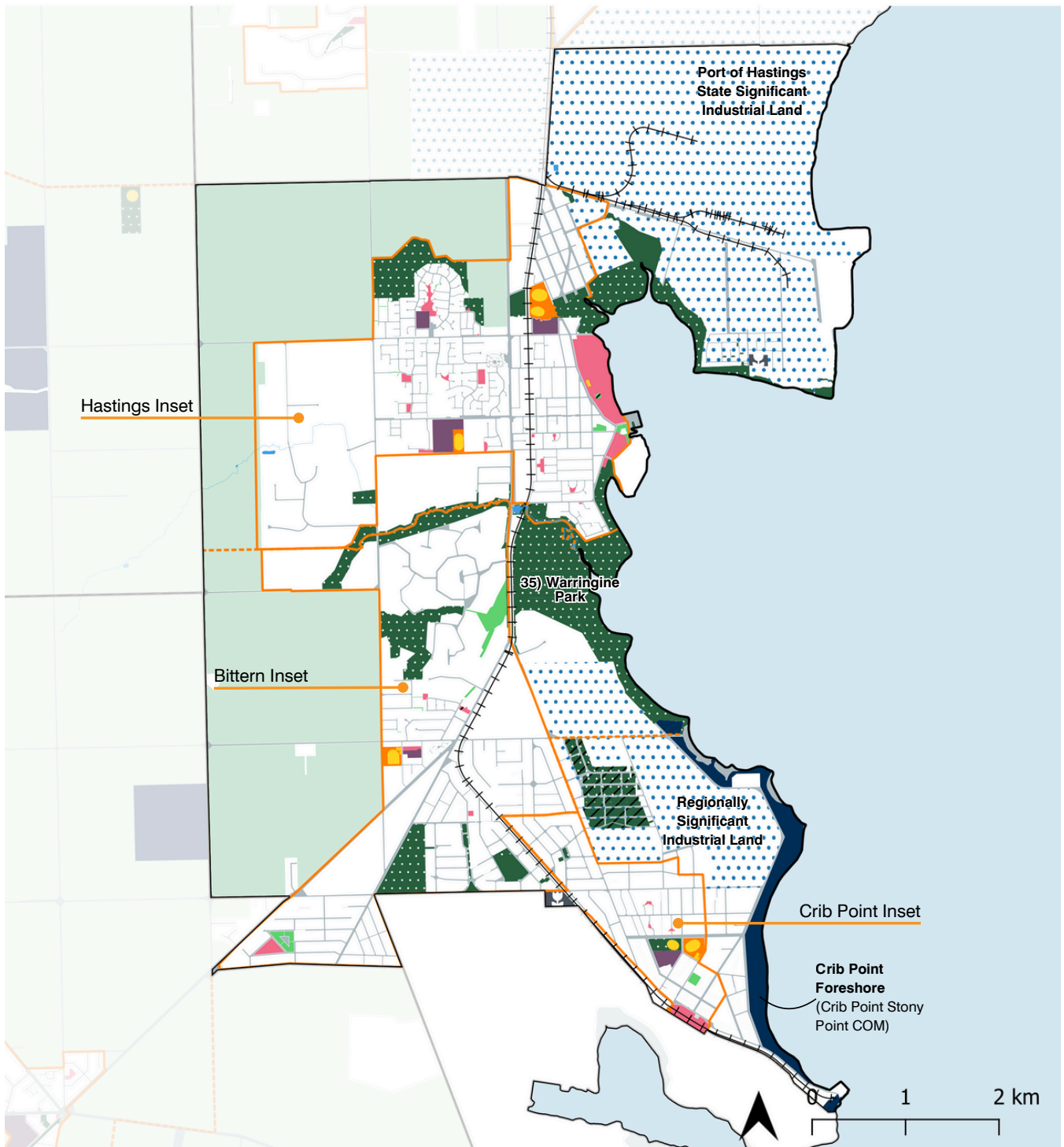
## Precinct 4 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.1	<b>OPTIMISE: Improve the quality of open space in priority areas.</b>				
	Enhance the quality and functionality of key reserves, prioritising parks with limited nearby alternatives, and low performance ratings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bittern Boulevard, Bittern (19). Improve the appeal and functionality of the reserve with park furniture mature trees.</li> </ul> <p><i>NB. Reserves have been prioritised where there are no other higher-performing reserves nearby. All recommendations should be tested with the local community to confirm priorities.</i></p>	Medium	Horizon 2	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team  Project Delivery Team
3.3	<b>OPTIMISE: Better distribute play opportunities</b>				
	Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015–2020 and assess opportunities to address gaps in play provision, while rationalising playgrounds in precincts with both oversupply and unmet demand to ensure equitable and efficient access across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider planning for a playspace within the following play gaps in growth areas (incremental change)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hastings Foreshore Reserve (northern end)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
3.4	<b>OPTIMISE: Improve Play opportunities across the Shire</b>				
	Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015-2020 to improve play opportunities for all ages and abilities across the Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver new skate facility at Arthur W Peterson Reserve (15) subject to VicTrack approval.</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

## Precinct 4 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.5	<b>OPTIMISE: Develop masterplans for under performing reserves</b>				
	Prioritise and develop masterplans for parks and reserves to meet community needs and support sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess, identify and prioritise district or regional open spaces that support complex and overlapping activities, have limited nearby alternatives, or possess unique characteristics and are identified as high-use and or highly sensitive.</li> <li>Engage the community in the planning process to ensure plans reflect local priorities and align with broader Council strategies for sustainability, asset renewal, and infrastructure development.</li> <li>Develop masterplans for district reserves with a performance score below 60%, in line with capital works and asset renewal programs, including: Graham Myers Memorial Reserve, Bittern (21), Cyril Fox Recreation Reserve, Crib Point (24) and Western Port Athletics Track, Hastings, (30)</li> </ul>	Medium - High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout) Ongoing	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
3.6	<b>OPTIMISE: Support the implementation of existing masterplans</b>				
	Support the implementation of master/concept plans to enhance the open space network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hastings Foreshore Master Plan (6 &amp;12)</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Project Delivery Team

# Precinct 4 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

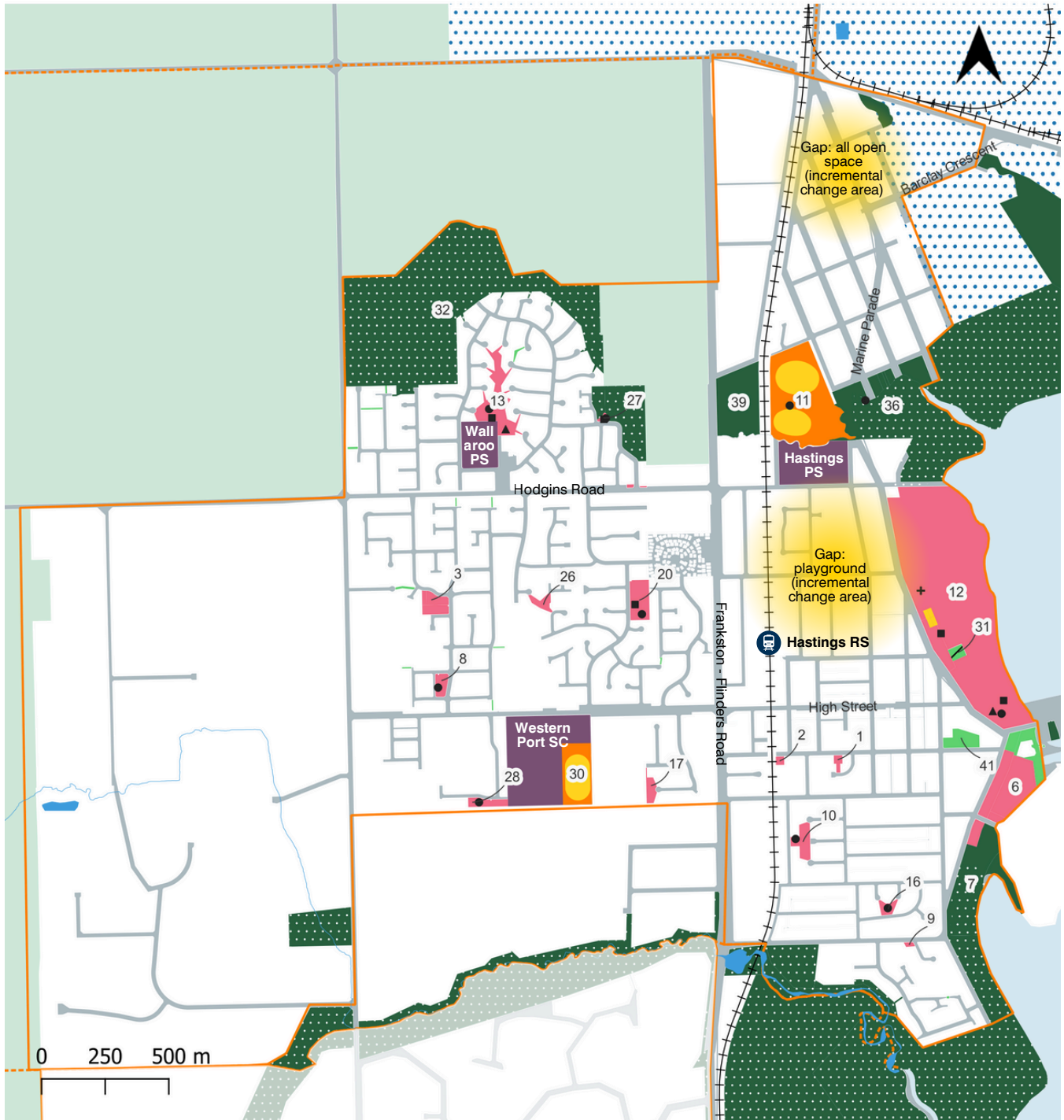
- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Field of play
- Restricted Access
- Managed as a Bushland Reserve

### Other Land

- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Open Space in Other Municipalities
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club

- Township Boundary
- Inset Boundary

# Hastings Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

### Other Land

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

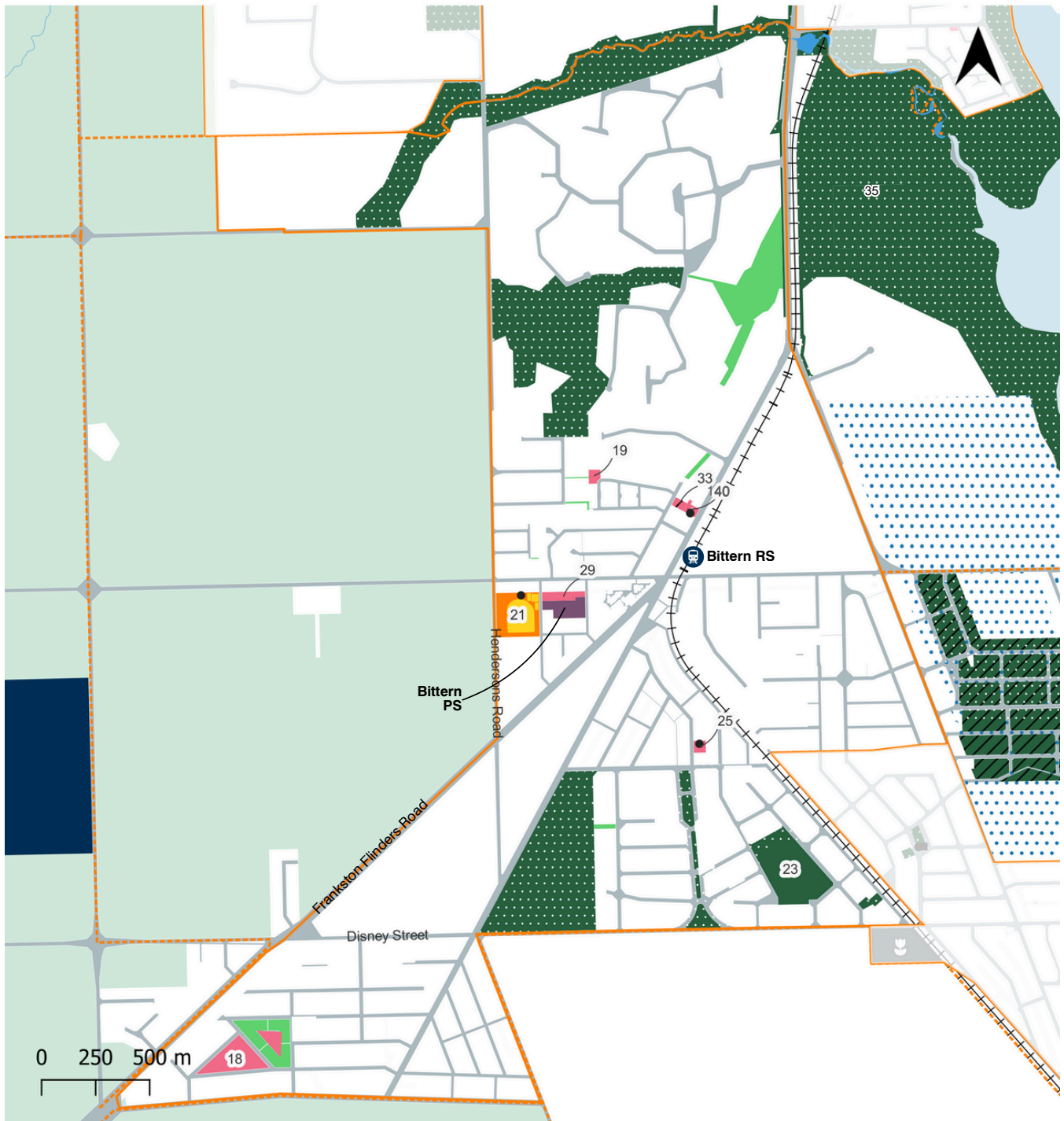
### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Hastings Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	Cyril Ward Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.16
2	Elizabeth Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.11
3	Lantons Way Park	Recreation		Neighbourhood	0.83
6	Hastings Foreshore South	Recreation		Local	4.17
7	Warringine Park (north section)	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	5.77
8	Tara Drive Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.41
9	Carinya Court Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.06
10	Rotary Park	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.72
11	Hastings Park	Sport	Recreation	District	8.81
12	Hastings Foreshore Reserve (including Fred Smith Reserve)	Recreation	Sport	District	72.91
13	Westpark Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Neighbourhood	2.28
16	Gaskin Avenue Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.29
17	Lomica Drive Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.36
20	Villawood Drive Reserve	Recreation		Neighbourhood	1.18
26	Cypress Close Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Neighbourhood	0.34
27	Barcoo Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.14
28	Olivia Way Park	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.48
30	Western Port Athletics Track	Sport	Recreation	District	2.77
31	Hastings Bowls Club	Other		Restricted	0.28
32	King Creek Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Neighbourhood	32.73
36	J A Babington Park	Conservation	Nature	Neighbourhood	3.27
39	Hastings Community Hub	Conservation	Recreation	Local	4.29
41	Herring Street Reserve	Other	Recreation	Local	1.74

# Bittern Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

### Play Assets

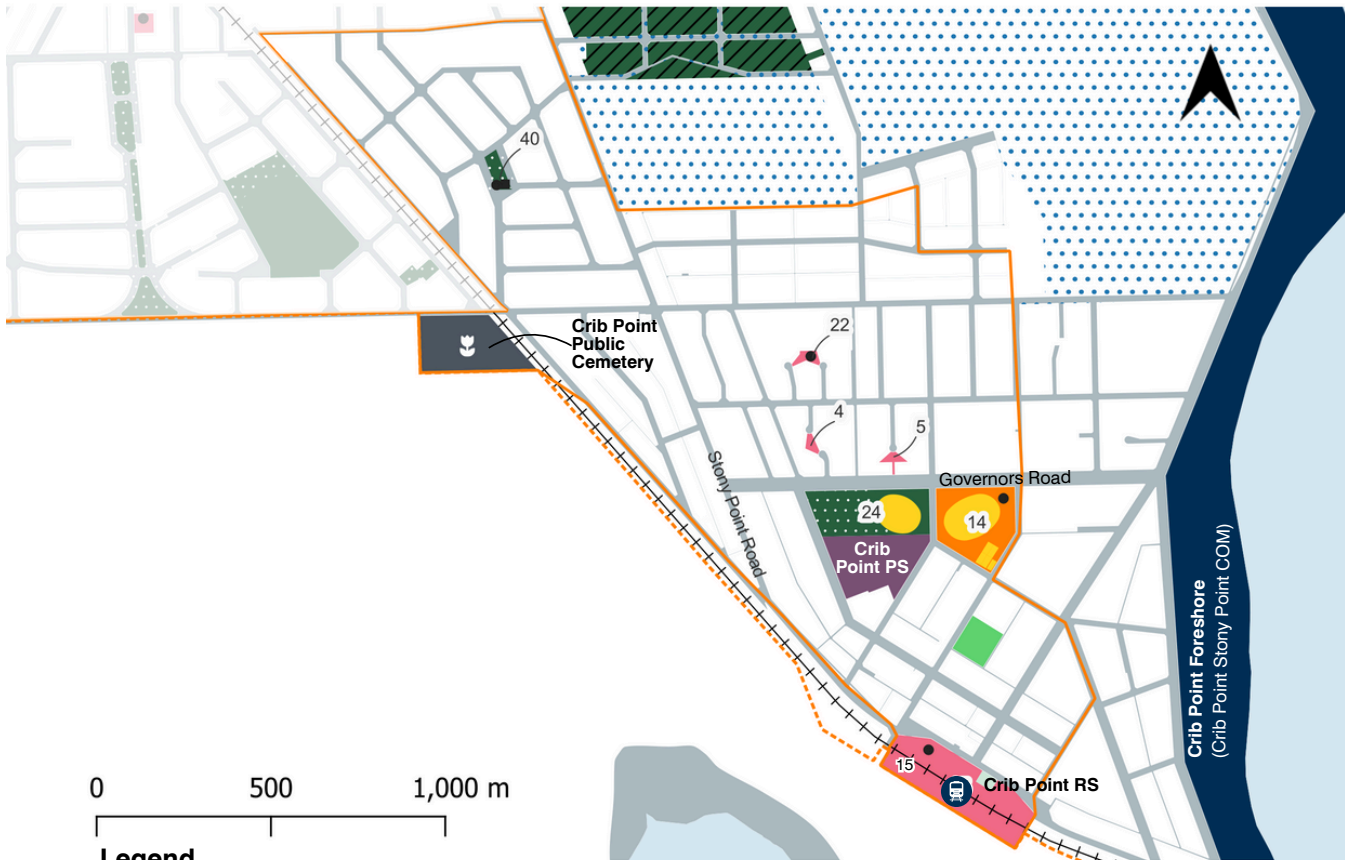
- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

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## Bittern Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
18	Rosyth Road Reserve (across two parcels)	Recreation		Neighbourhood	3.44
19	The Bittern Boulevard	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.32
21	Graham Myers Memorial Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	4.05
23	Lens Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Local	7.76
25	Flinders Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.30
29	Cresswell Road Open Space	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.74
33	Bittern Preschool	Recreation		Restricted	0.24
35	Warringine Park	Conservation	Nature	Regional	167.48
140	Bittern Hall Grounds	Recreation		Local	0.29

## Crib Point Inset & Index



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

#### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

#### Play Assets

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)
- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
4	Bond Close Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.14
5	Kara Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.16
14	Crib Point Recreation Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	4.38
15	Arthur W Peterson Reserve (council committee of management for playground only)	Recreation		Neighbourhood	5.93
22	Osment Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.22
24	Cyril Fox Recreation Reserve	Conservation	Sport	District	4.36
40	Dartnell Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Local	0.45

150

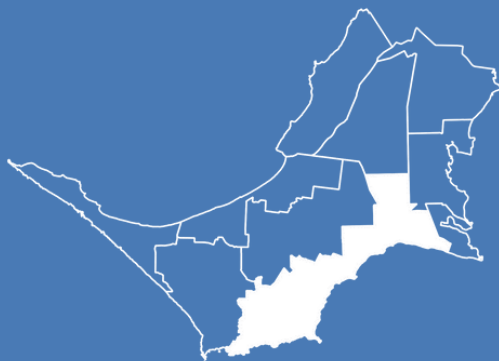
# Precinct 5

Somers, Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Merricks, Merricks Beach, Point Leo, Shoreham, Flinders

## Overview

Located on the south-eastern edge of the Green Wedge, Precinct 5 has a semi-rural character, with approximately 7,000 residents mainly in Somers, Balnarring, Shoreham, and Flinders. The 133 square kilometres feature rolling pastures, cypress windbreaks, and remnant coastal ecologies, including coastal scrubland, grasslands, and dry forests within road reserves. Known for views of Phillip Island and the inland hills, the community values its semi-rural identity, favouring environmentally sensitive infrastructure and opportunities to connect with nature. The population is projected to increase by 22% over the next two decades, primarily in the main town centres.

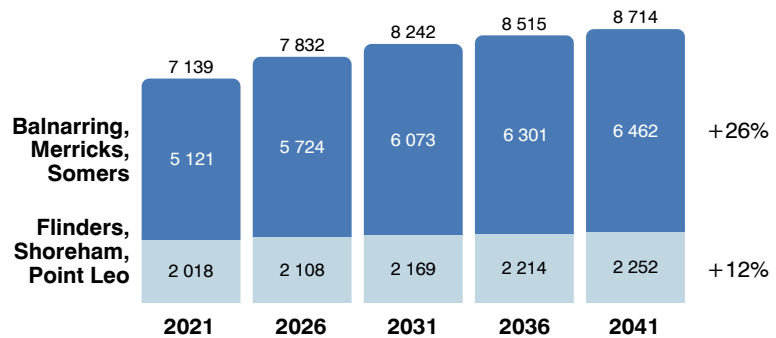
## Precinct Type: **Coastal**



# Precinct Overview

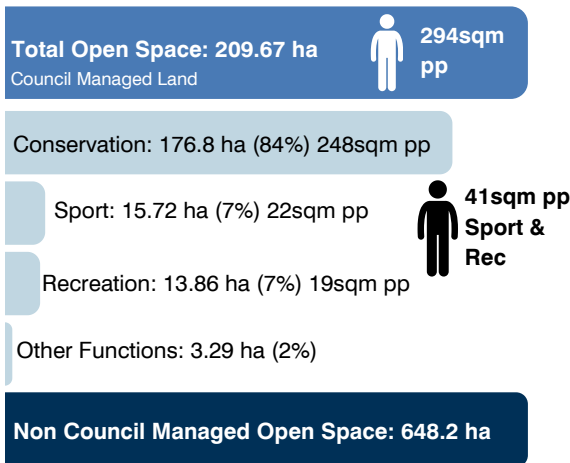


## Population



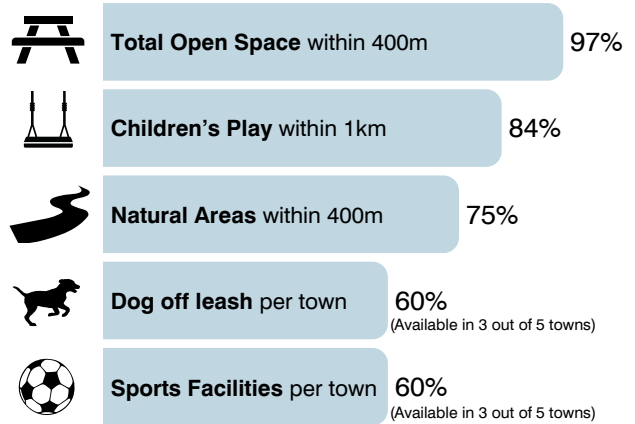
Source: forecast .id

## Open Space Provision



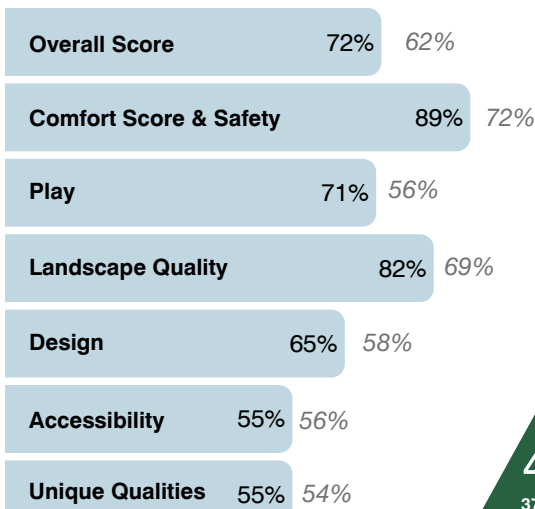
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

## Experience Access



\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

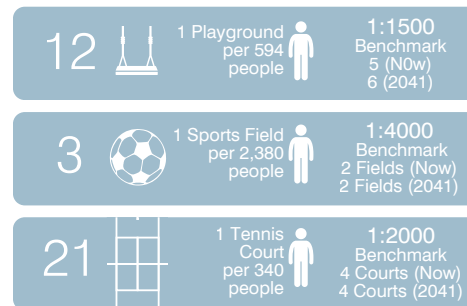
## Performance Measures



% of total sites with unique qualities

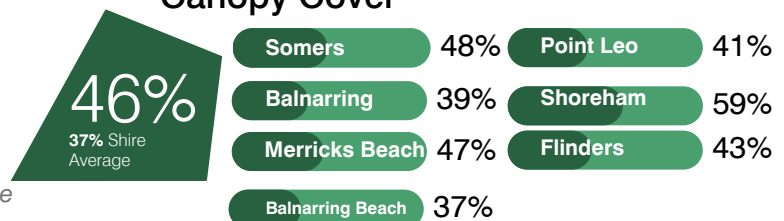
\*Shire Average

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan - Volume 1 - 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Canopy Cover



# Precinct 5 Analysis

## Key Issues

Provision of open space is above average in precinct 5 with a high proportion of open space per person coastal and inland. The majority of foreshore reserves in precinct 5 are managed by Parks Victoria or a patchwork of DEECA committees of management. This fragmented management framework is a challenge.

### Experience Access

Open space is generally well distributed across Precinct 5, with no priority access gaps identified. However, due to the dispersed settlement pattern and relatively small population base, there is an over-provision of infrastructure in some locations. For example, Somers contains three small playgrounds located in close proximity, which may offer limited value in terms of diversity or efficiency of provision.

The precinct includes three sporting ovals, which is considered sufficient for the overall population. However, this results in some towns not being directly serviced by a dedicated sporting reserve.

In terms of dog off-leash access, the precinct does not meet the aspirational experience standards. Off-leash areas are available in Somers and Flinders, but are lacking in Shoreham, Point Leo, Merricks, and Balnarring Beach.

### Coastal Open Space

The majority of foreshore reserves in precinct 5 are managed by Parks Victoria or DEECA committees of management.

Like many coastal areas, this precinct is expected to face increasing exposure to natural coastal processes over time. This includes the potential for more frequent erosion, storm surges and, in the longer term, permanent tidal inundation in some locations.

These changes may gradually affect a range of public and environmental assets, including community facilities, local infrastructure (such as drainage, sewage, water and electricity), coastal vegetation and habitats, and areas of cultural and environmental significance.

By planning ahead, we can better understand and manage these risks to ensure the long-term protection, accessibility and resilience of our coastal open spaces.

Somers, Flinders and Balnarring Beach have been selected as focus areas for further coastal assessment and planning as it faces increasing erosion risks. They have high erosion risk ratings in the short term increasing to extreme in longer-term, with almost 300 at risk residential and/or commercial buildings combined across these townships in the longer-term. Important vegetation, habitat, Ramsar Wetlands, and areas associated with First Nations culture are vulnerable

*Our Coast Our Future Strategy*

### Supporting Plans

- Balnarring Structure Plan, 2019
- Balnarring Recreation Reserve Master Plan, 2013
- Flinders Coastal and Marine Management Plan, 2023
- Flinders Foreshore Precinct Conservation Management Plan, 2023
- Flinders Park and Cook Street Open Space Master Plan, 2014
- Merricks Station Grounds Master Plan, 2012
- Western Port Coastal Villages Surrounding Settlements Strategy, 2019
- Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).

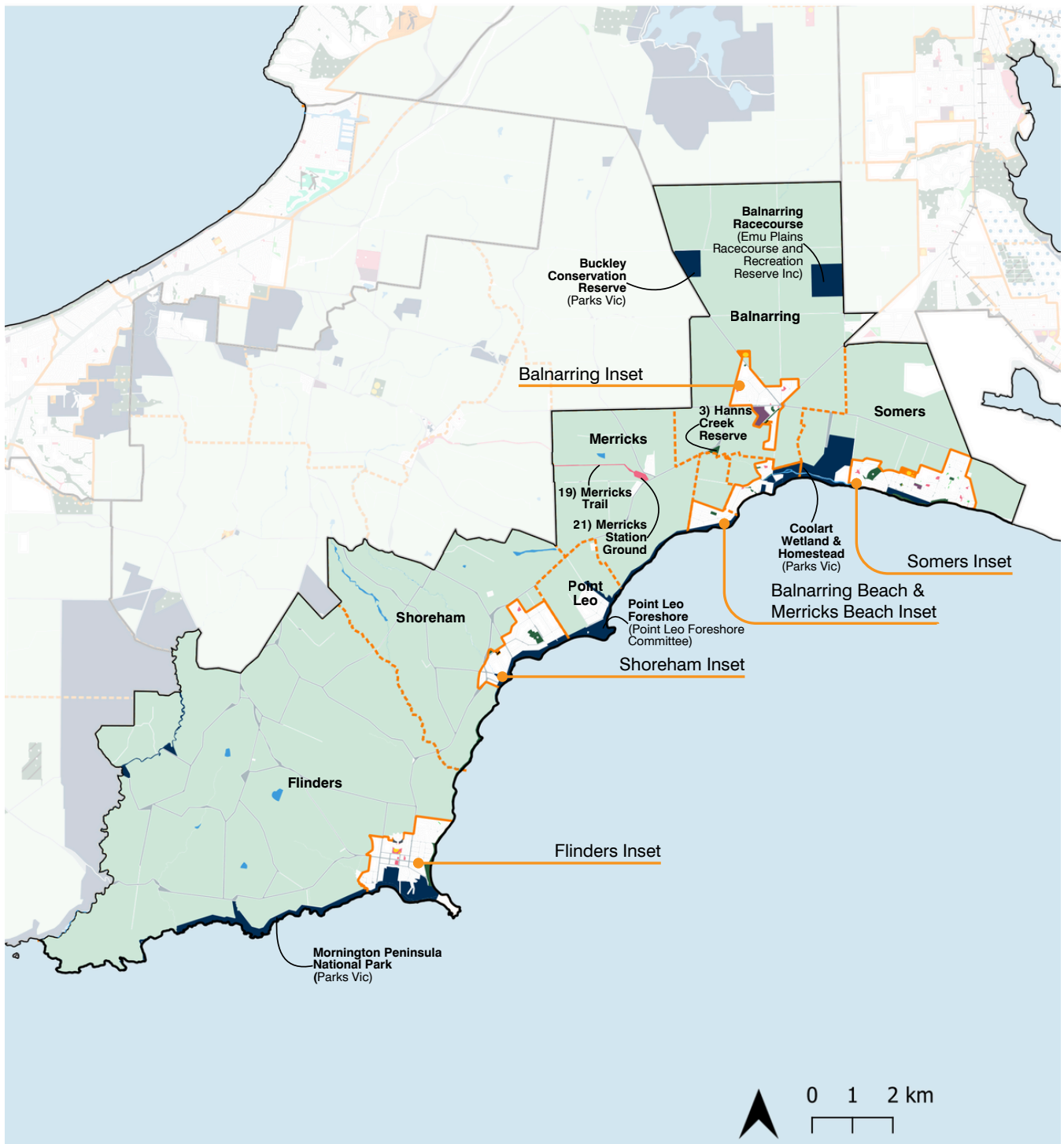
## Precinct 5 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>PROTECT: Implement Planning Scheme Amendments to Secure and Strengthen Open Space Outcomes</b>					
1.1	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rezone high priority parcels identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones:</li> <li>Change to PPRZ:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seascape Avenue Reserve (24)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Change to PCRZ:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ South Sea Foreshore Reserve</li> <li>○ Balnarring Mechanics Institute Park (13)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team Planning Services Team
<b>1.7 PROTECT: Proactively plan for the impact of future climate change on open spaces</b>					
1.7	Support the implementation of the Mornington Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Plan and Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy by prioritising actions that help manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change across the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In partnership with local environmental, landcare and reserve friends-groups, prioritise open spaces for revegetation and habitat restoration using climate-resilient indigenous species to strengthen ecological corridors and buffer vulnerable habitats, working with ecologists, land managers, and Traditional Owners to map high-priority areas.</li> <li>• Protect and deliver open space upgrades near the foreshore in line with Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMPs) and consult the Coastal Strategy modelling and recommendations to ensure upgrades are future-proofed, and proactively select sites and infrastructure for resilience.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Climate Change Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

## Precinct 5 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.3</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Better distribute play opportunities</b>				
	Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015–2020 and assess opportunities to address gaps in play provision, while rationalising playgrounds in precincts with both oversupply and unmet demand to ensure equitable and efficient access across the Shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify underutilised or redundant playgrounds (such as those with nearby play spaces within 200m, small sizes, poor access, or limited infrastructure)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somers: Assess Kennedy Road Reserve (4) and Nisson Court Reserve (11) for consolidation into a single, higher-value playspace.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Explore options for redeploying or repurposing these spaces to better meet community needs and improve recreational opportunities in high-demand areas</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>3.6</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Support the implementation of existing masterplans</b>				
	Support the implementation of master/concept plans to enhance the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RW Stone Masterplan 2023, Somers (9): Support the upgrade of play infrastructure, path networks and dirt jumps</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team  Project Delivery Team

# Precinct 5 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

Sport	Field of play
Recreation	Restricted Access
Conservation/Foreshore	Managed as a Bushland Reserve
Other Functions	

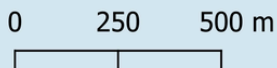
### Other Land

Non Council Managed Open Space	Open Space in Other Municipalities
Public School	Railway Line
Green Wedge Land	

Public Golf Council
Public Golf Council (crown land)
Private Golf Course/Club

Township Boundary
Inset Boundary

# Somers Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of Play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Playground over-provision

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

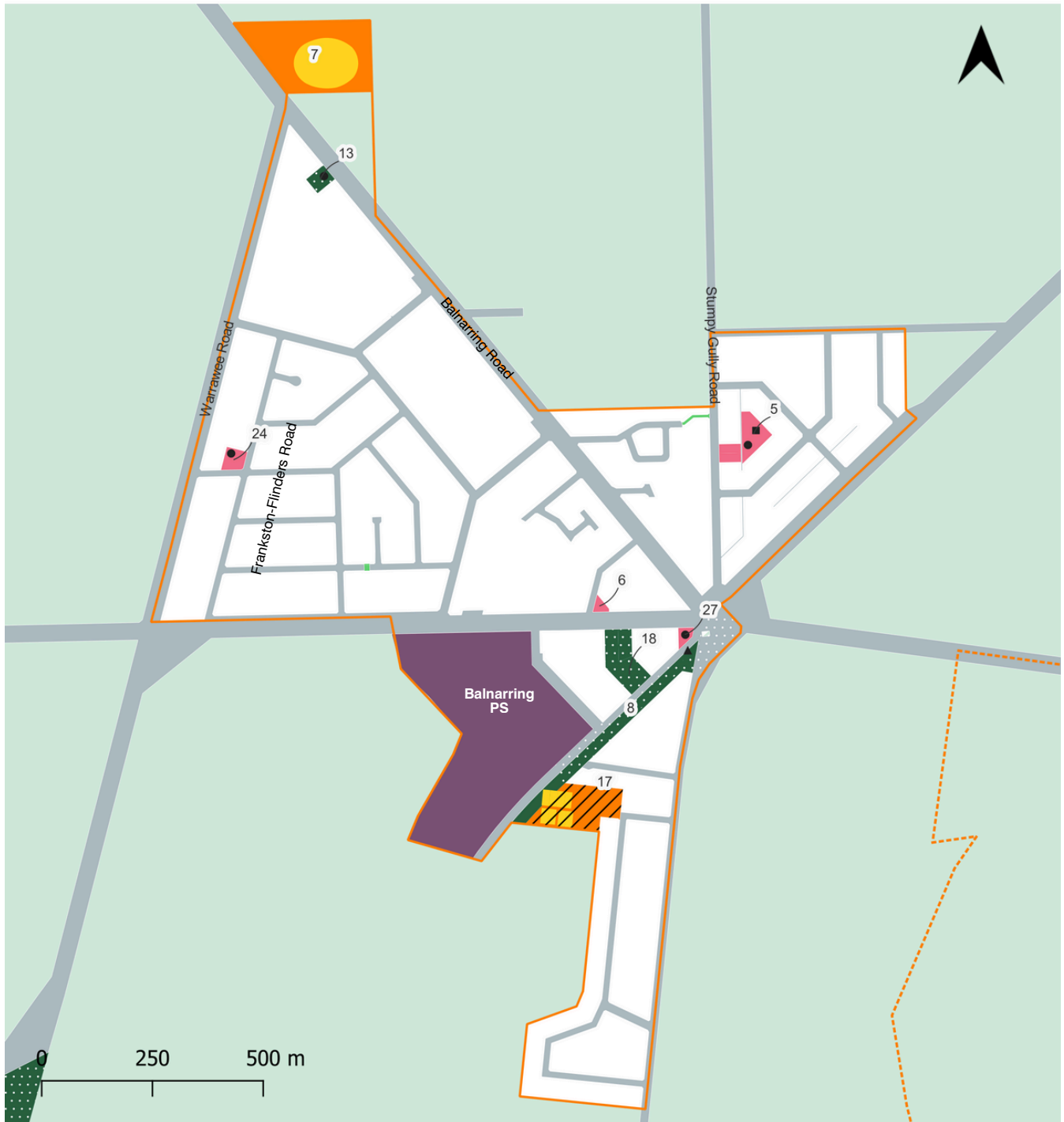
### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Somers Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
2	Dover Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.66
4	Kennedy Road Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.58
9	R W Stone Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	6.11
11	Nisson Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.48
12	Miramar Road Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.48
14	Miramar Walkway and Somers South Beach	Conservation	Linking	Neighbourhood	0.78
16	Banksia Square	Conservation	Recreation	Local	0.68
20	Clifton Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.25
22	Garden Square Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Local	0.37
30	Somers Koala Reserve	Conservation	Nature		7.26

# Balnarring Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Public and Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

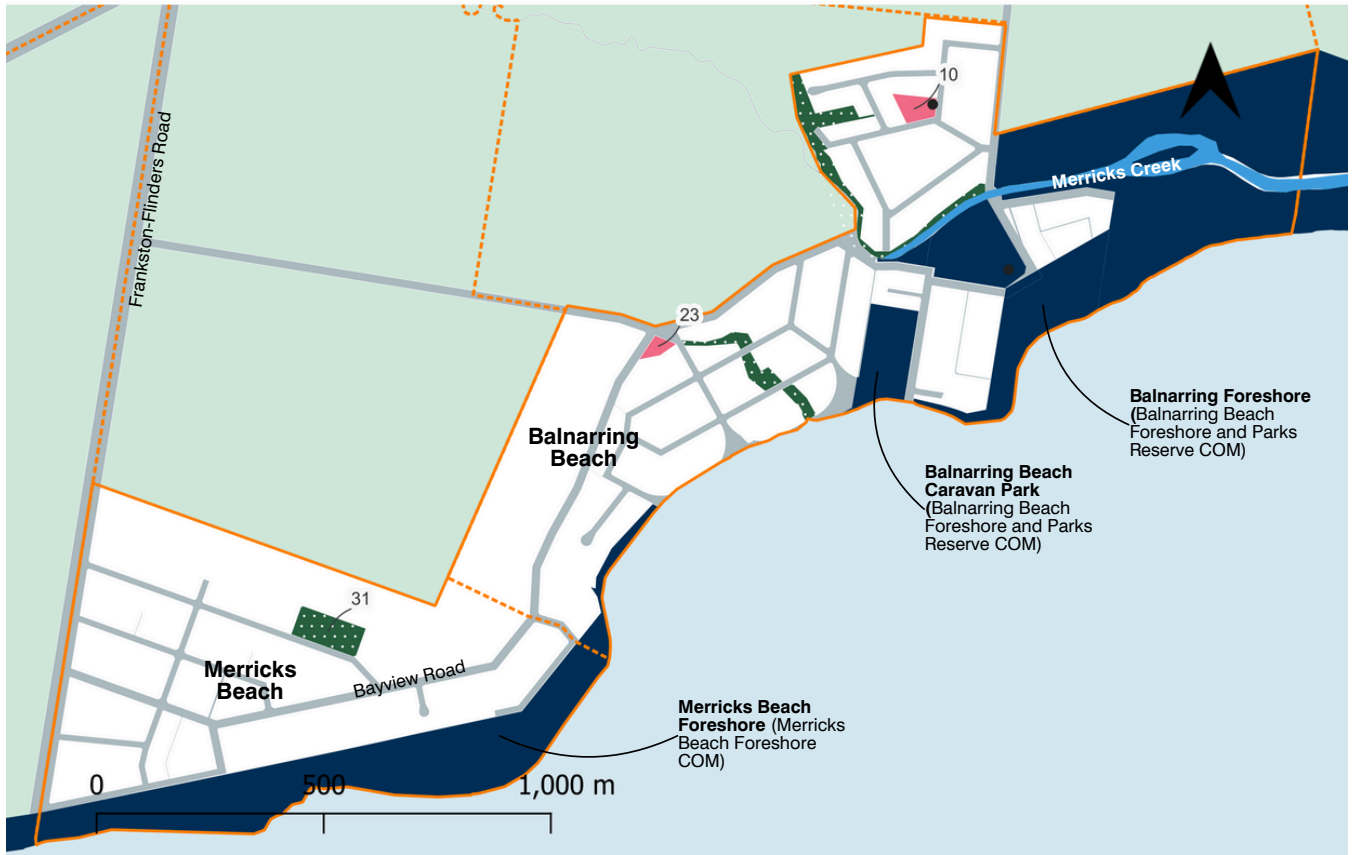
### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Balnarring Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
3	Hanns Creek Reserve (precinct 5 map)	Conservation	Recreation	Neighbourhood	3.89
5	Stumpy Gully Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.65
6	Anzac Park	Recreation		Local	0.08
7	Balnarring Recreation Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	4.07
8	Civic Court Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Neighbourhood	1.45
13	Balnarring Mechanics Institute Park	Environmental Conservation	Recreation	Local	0.20
17	Balnarring Bowls Club	Sport	Recreation	Restricted	1.59
18	Balnarring Park	Conservation	Recreation	Local	0.89
24	Seascape Avenue Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.22
27	Balnarring Village Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.11

## Balnarring Beach & Merricks Beach Insert & Index



### Legend

<b>Open Space Primary Function</b>		<b>Other Land</b>		<b>Play Assets</b>	
Sport	Field of play	Cemetery	Public Golf Council	Playground	
Recreation	Priority Access Gap	Public School	Public Golf Council (crown land)	Skate/BMX	
Conservation/Foreshore	Restricted Access	Railway Line	Private Golf Course/Club	Outdoor Fitness Station	
Other Functions	Non Council Managed Open Space	Green Wedge Land	Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)	Basketball/halfcourt	
Bushland Reserve					

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
10	Campbell Court Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.42
19	Merricks Trail (precinct 5 map)	Recreation	Linking	Regional	0.79
21	Merricks Station Ground Reserve (precinct 5 map)	Recreation		Regional	6.34
23	Marmaduke Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.19
31	Bill Carroll Reserve	Conservation	Nature		1.00

# Shoreham Inset & Index



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

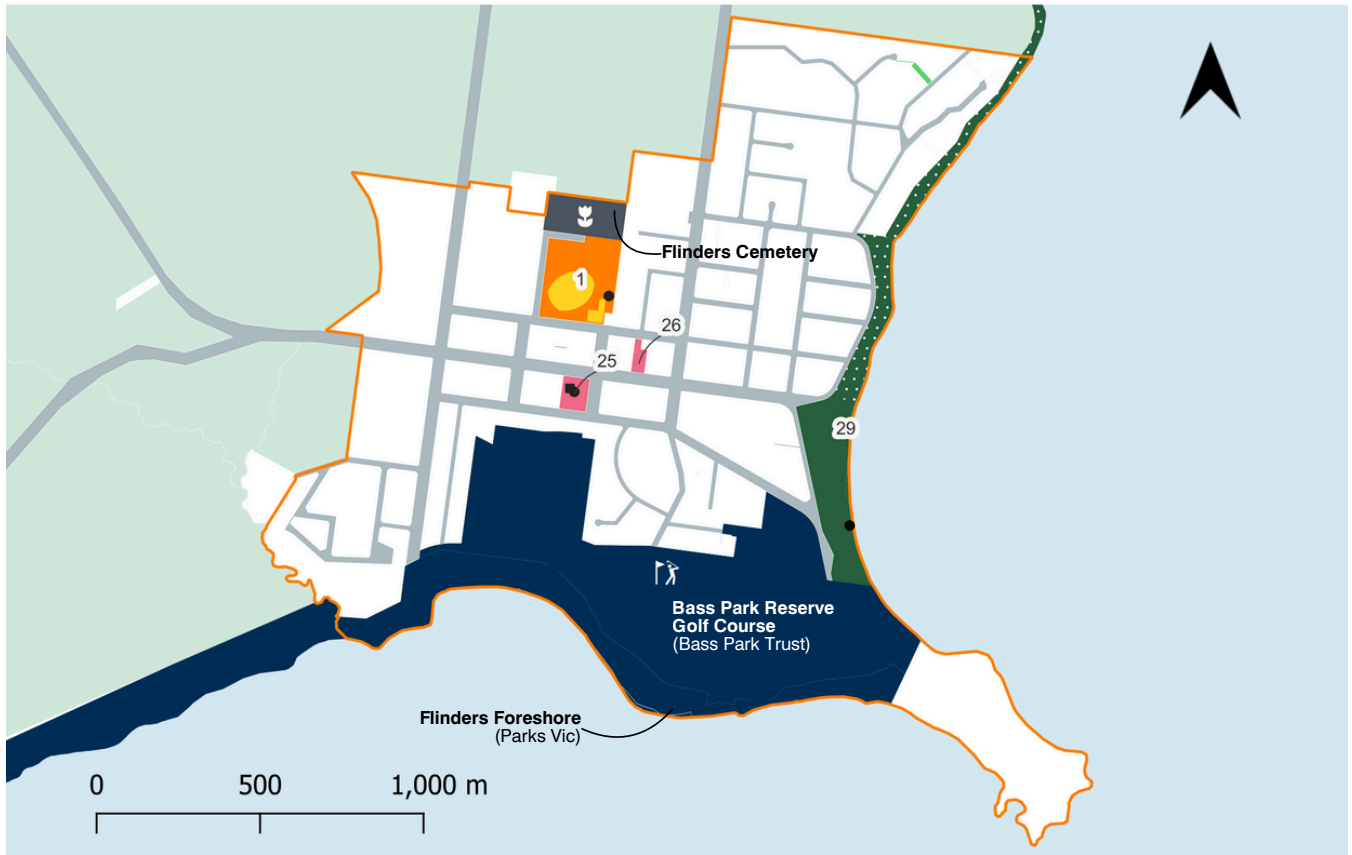
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- + Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
15	Pine Grove Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.68
28	Shoreham Hall	Sport	Recreation	Restricted Access	0.96

## Flinders Inset & Index



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

#### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

#### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	B A Cairns Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	5.54
25	Flinders Park	Recreation		Local	0.81
26	Cook Street Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.35
29	Flinders Foreshore (Crown Land)	Environmental Conservation	Water Foreshore		9.87

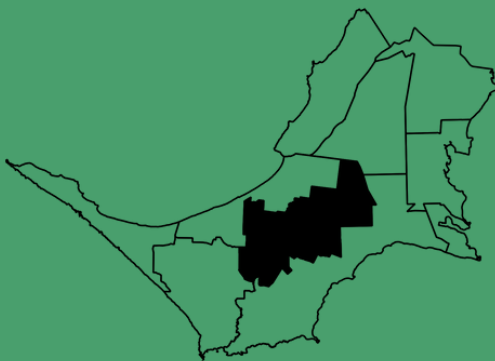
# Precinct 6

Merricks North, Arthurs Seat, Red Hill,  
Red Hill South, Main Ridge

## Overview

With approximately 3,000 residents across 100 square kilometres, Precinct 6 is one of the least populated areas, featuring a rural to semi-rural landscape. Located within the Green Wedge, it is characterised by rolling hills, cypress windbreaks, olive groves, and wineries. Unlike the coastal precincts, its mild, sheltered microclimate offers a contrasting visitor experience. Arthurs Seat, a major tourist destination, provides views of Port Phillip Bay, walking trails, adventure activities, and public gardens. Vulnerable vegetation includes herb-rich and heathy woodlands in the Mornington Peninsula National Park, along with dry and grassy woodlands scattered across the farmland. Population growth is minimal, projected at just 4% over two decades.

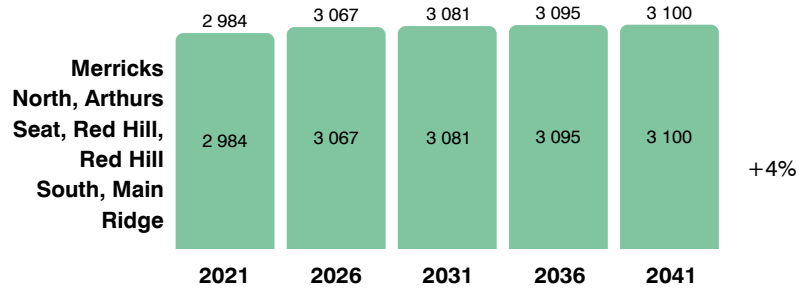
Precinct Type: **Rural**



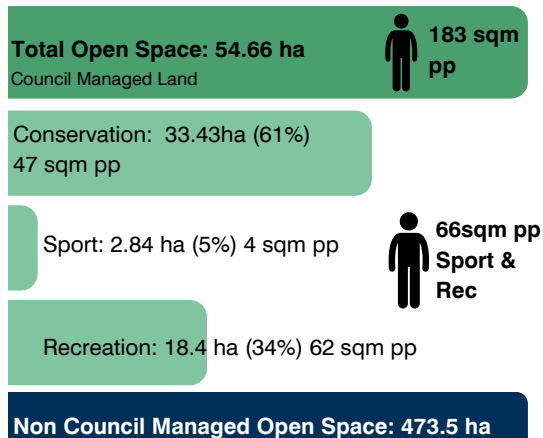
## Precinct Overview



### Population

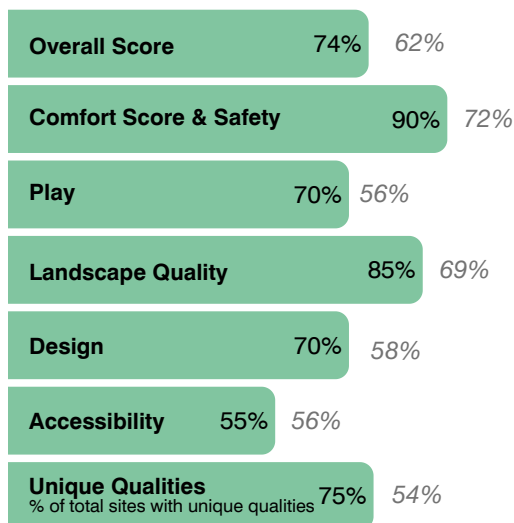


### Open Space Provision



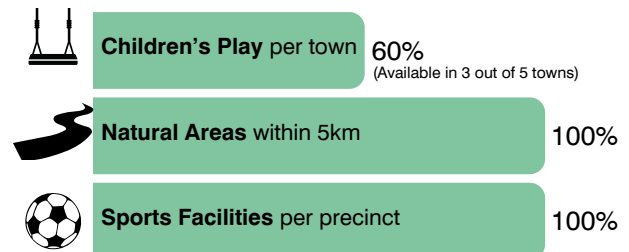
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

### Performance Measures



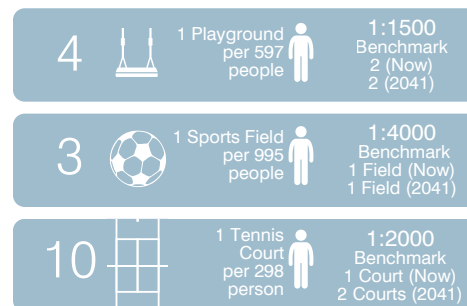
\*Shire Average

### Experience Access



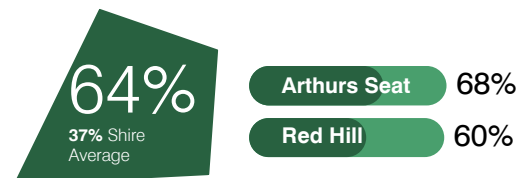
\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

### Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan - Volume 1 - 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

### Canopy Cover



### Analysis and Supporting Plans

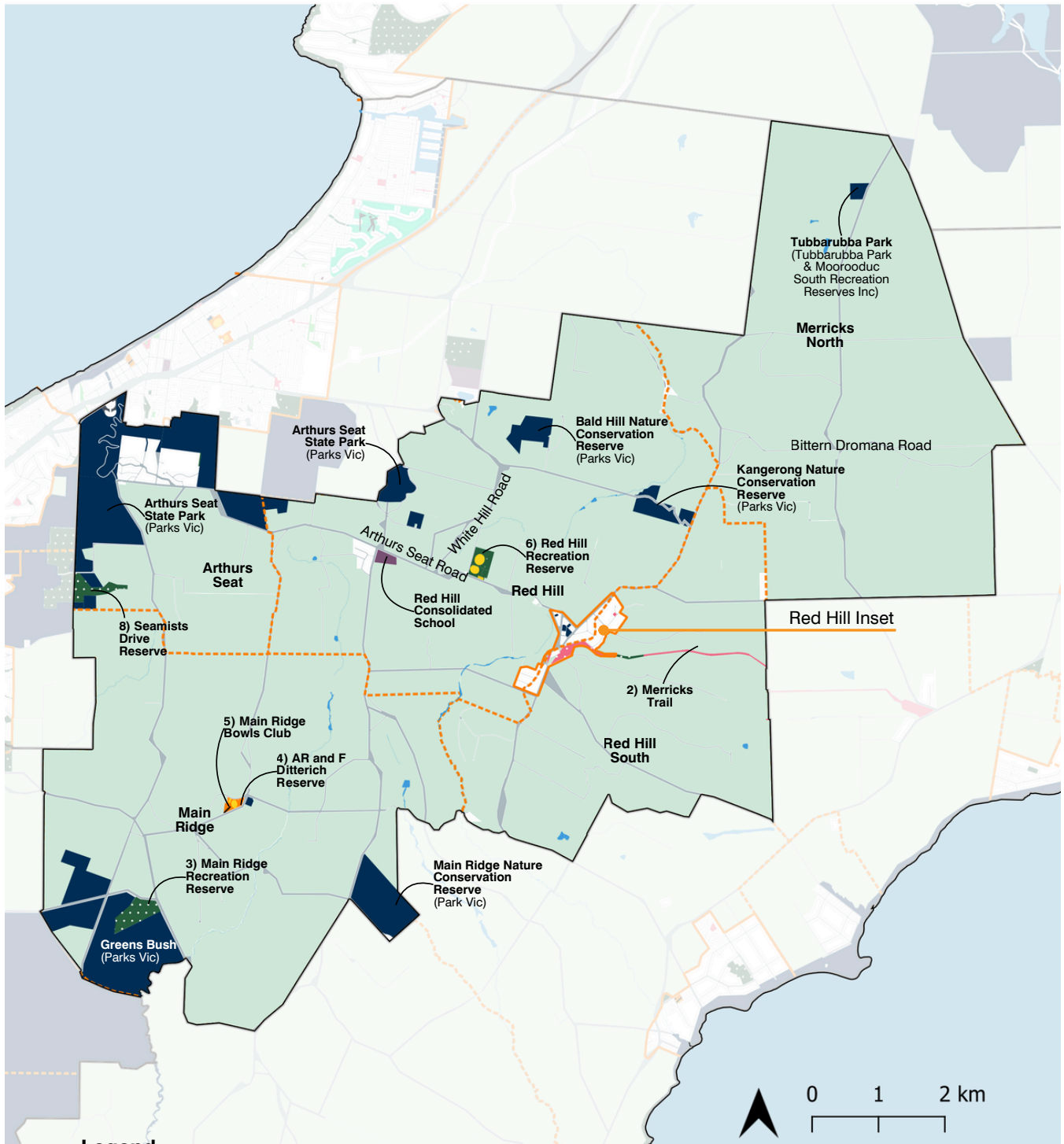
Precinct 6 has good provision of open space and open space infrastructure with parks performing above the Shire average.

- Red Hill Recreation Reserve Master Plan

## Precinct 6 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.1</b>	<b>PROTECT: Implement Planning Scheme Amendments to Secure and Strengthen Open Space Outcomes</b>				
	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rezone high priority parcels identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones: Change to PPRZ:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Koopalanda/Beauford Road Reserve (1)</li> <li>Red Hill Station Reserve (7)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team  Planning Services Team
<b>3.7</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Prioritise cycling and walking connections through open space</b>				
	Support the Peninsula Trails Strategic Plan & Peninsula Trails Masterplan 2024 to Complete the Walking and Cycling Trail Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan for a short loop trail (under 30 minutes) within the Rural Precinct, in response to community priorities, and consider prioritising proposed walking trails with the Red Hill Recreation Reserve (6) Long Term Master Plan 2014 for implementation.</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	Major Project Coordination Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

# Precinct 6 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

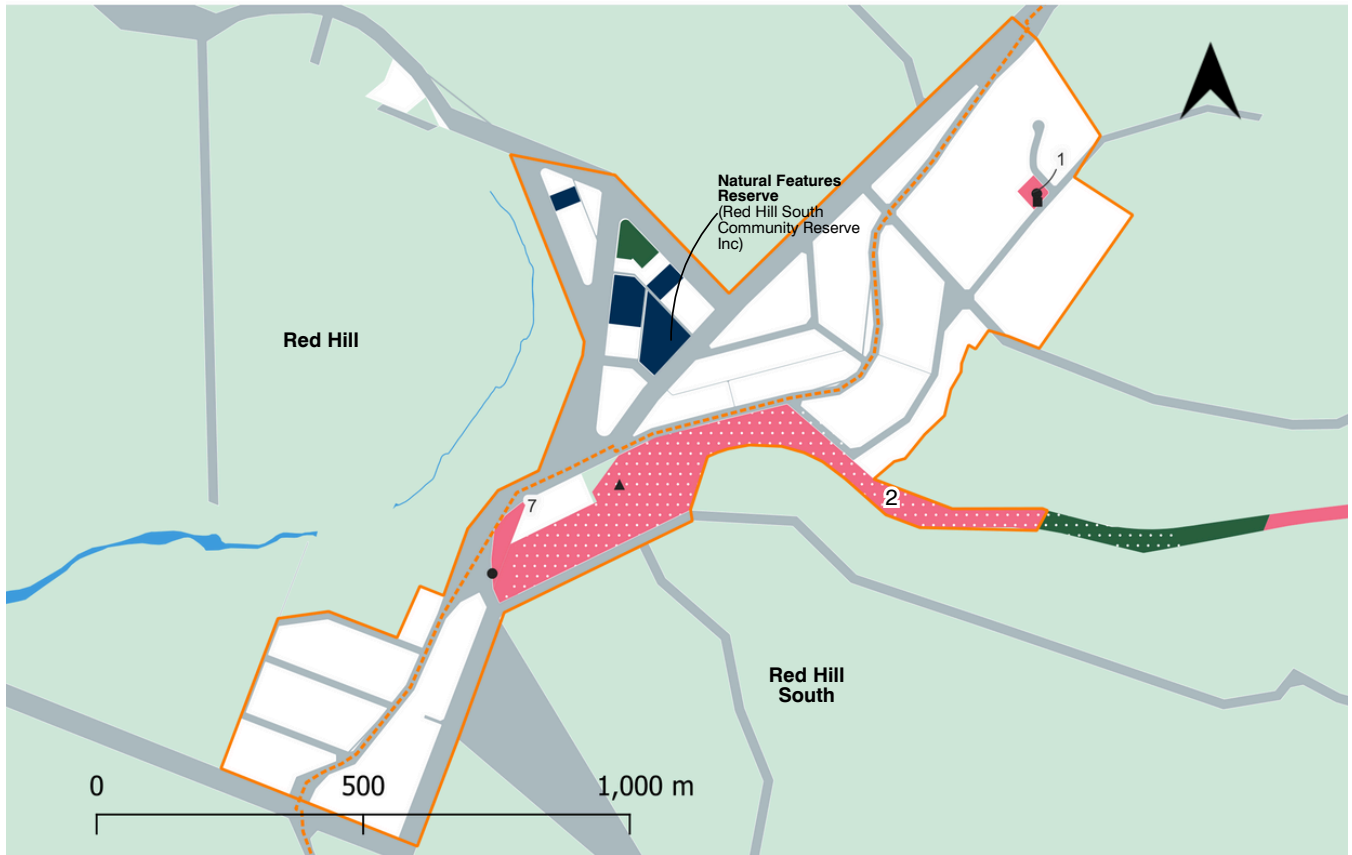
- Sport
- Field of play
- Recreation
- Restricted Access
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Managed as a Bushland Reserve
- Other Functions

### Other Land

- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Open Space in Other Municipalities
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club

- Township Boundary
- Inset Boundary

## Red Hill Inset and Precinct 6 Index



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

#### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

#### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	Koopalanda/Beauford Road Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.19
2	Merricks Trail	Recreation	Linking	Regional	19.31
3	Main Ridge Recreation Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	District	18.86
4	AR and F Ditterich Reserve	Sport		District	2.84
5	Main Ridge Bowls Club	Sport		Restricted	1.29
6	Red Hill Recreation Reserve	Conservation	Sport	District	12.67
7	Station Reserve	Recreation	Conservation		0.39
8	Seamists Drive Reserve	Conservation	Nature		14.5

168

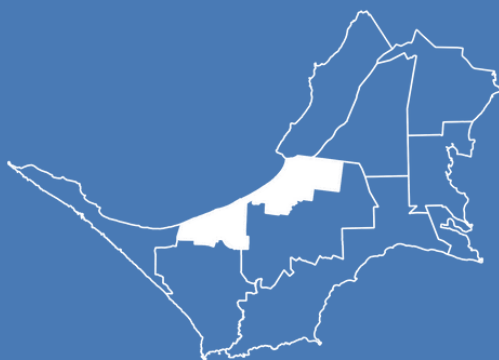
# Precinct 7

Safety Beach, Dromana, McCrae,  
Rosebud, Capel Sound

## Overview

Covering 58 square kilometres, this precinct combines coastal townships and rural landscapes, with most of the 37,730 residents concentrated along the Port Phillip Bay edge between Capel Sound and Safety Beach, including the major centres of Rosebud and Dromana. Population growth is among the highest in the Shire seeing the character of the Shire become more urban. Known for its coastal communities, beach trails, and stunning bay views, it also features the diverse ecologies of Arthurs Seat National Park. This precinct is predicted to grow to 43,296 residents (15% increase) by 2041.

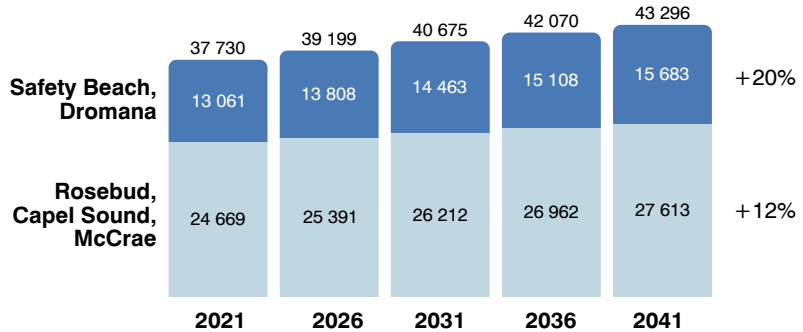
Precinct Type: **Coastal**



# Precinct Overview

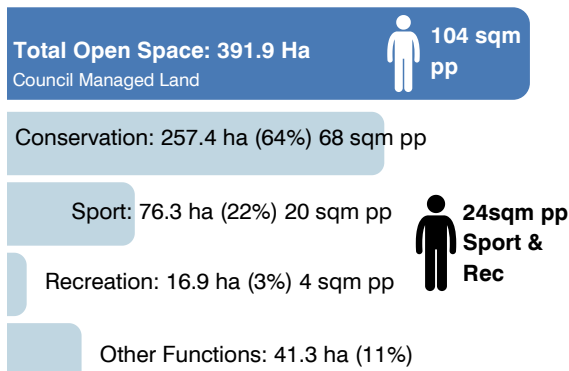


## Population



Source: forecast .id

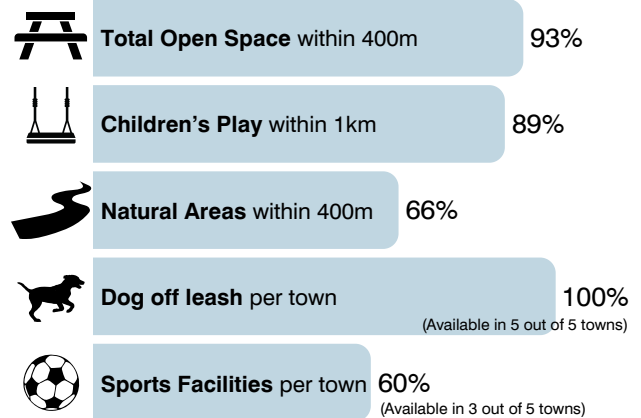
## Open Space Provision



**Non Council Managed Open Space: 399.4 ha**

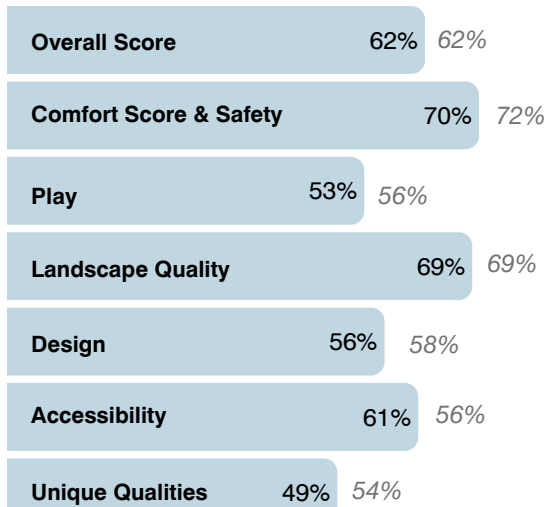
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

## Experience Access



\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

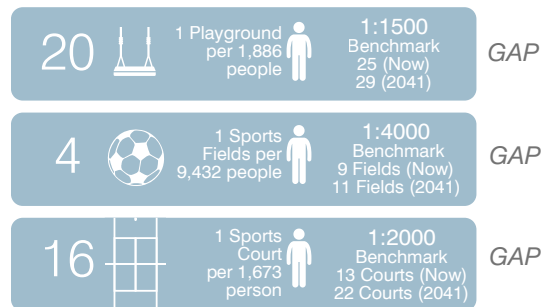
## Performance Measures



% of total sites with unique qualities

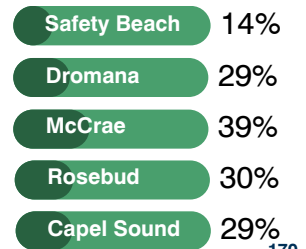
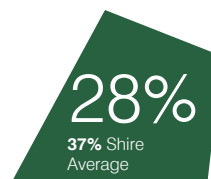
\*Shire Average

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan - Volume 1 - 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Canopy Cover



## Precinct 7

### Key Issues






Provision of open space is good in precinct 7 with a significant amount of coastal open space managed by Parks Victoria and DEECA committees of management. Provision of sport and recreation open space is average.

### Experience Access

Open space distribution is generally average in precinct 7 with several priority gaps throughout the precinct.

There is an under provision of 5 playgrounds and 5 sports ovals in the precinct. Neither Safety Beach or McCrae are currently served by a sporting oval.

### Priority Gaps

-  Dromana - 2 small gaps between the foreshore and freeway for access to all open space and one for natural areas.
-  Rosebud - Gap in access to all open space adjacent to Jetty Road.
-  Capel Sound - 2 Gaps in access to playgrounds in the south and adjacent to the foreshore.
-  Capel Sound - A gap in access to all open space located south of Eastbourne Road.
-  Safety Beach - A gap in access to natural areas across most of the township.

### Park Performance

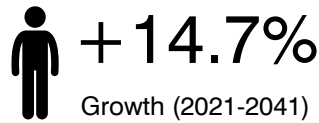
Open space quality is good in coastal areas but local parks situated away from the foreshore are not functioning as well. There are 3 parks with overall performance scores below 40% in the precinct as follows.

- Brassier Avenue Bushland Reserve, Dromana 20% (high priority)
- Fig Street Reserve, Dromana 28% (high priority)
- Dromana Racecourse Reserve, Dromana 36% (medium priority)

### Optimising Underutilised Open Space

The precinct contains a high number of reserves, some of which are located in close proximity to one another, offer limited function, or have restricted access. This pattern of provision may reduce the overall effectiveness and community value of the open space network.

Within this context, Rosebud has been identified as an area of focus for further analysis, given the potential to enhance the performance and use of existing open spaces.



Population growth is above the average in Precinct 7. Growth is seeing the precinct transition from a more traditional coastal holiday precinct type to an urban one with a higher permanent resident population. This will put pressure on the existing coastal open space and under provision of traditional recreation reserves.

### Coastal Open Space

Coastal open space is the main form of public open space in Precinct 7, providing key places for recreation and relaxation.

Areas such as Safety Beach and Rosebud may experience increased pressure from natural coastal processes over time, including coastal flooding and rising groundwater levels.

These changes could gradually affect how coastal open spaces are accessed and enjoyed. Ongoing planning and management will be important to help maintain the safety, usability and long-term resilience of these valued community spaces.

### Canopy Cover



Canopy cover in precinct 7 is just below the state target of 30% and below the Shire average of 37%. Safety Beach (14%), Capel Sound (29%) and Dromana (29%) are all ranked in the top 5 priority for improvement by the Urban Forest Strategy.

### Supporting Plans

- Dromana Township Plan, 2018
- Jetty Road Foreshore Recreation Node Master Plan (Rosebud), 2015
- Olympic Park Master Plan (Rosebud), 2014
- Rosebud Activity Centre Structure Plan, 2017
- Rosebud Coastal Management Plan, 2015
- Safety Beach Coastal Management Plan, 2016
- Shaping Greater Dromana Plan, 2024
- Mornington Peninsula Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted in November 2025).

## Precinct 7 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.1</b>	<b>PROTECT: Implement Planning Scheme Amendments to Secure and Strengthen Open Space Outcomes</b>				
	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rezone high priority parcels identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones:</li> </ul> Change to PPRZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terry Goddard Reserve (41)</li> <li>Waterfall Gully Preschool (53)</li> <li>Horizons Community Park (13)</li> <li>11A Allambi Avenue</li> </ul> Change to PCRZ: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old Cape Schanck Road Bushland Reserve - North</li> <li>Old Cape Schanck Road Bushland Reserve - South</li> <li>Peninsula Sands Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Waterfall Gully Bushland Reserve</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team Planning Services Team
<b>1.7</b>	<b>PROTECT: Proactively plan for the impact of future climate change on open spaces</b>				
	Support the implementation of the Mornington Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Plan and Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy by prioritising actions that help manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change across the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with local environmental, landcare and reserve friends-groups, prioritise open spaces for revegetation and habitat restoration using climate-resilient indigenous species to strengthen ecological corridors and buffer vulnerable habitats, working with ecologists, land managers, and Traditional Owners to map high-priority areas.</li> <li>Protect and deliver open space upgrades near the foreshore in line with Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMPs) and consult the Coastal Strategy modelling and recommendations to ensure upgrades are future-proofed, and proactively select sites and infrastructure for resilience.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Climate Change Team Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

## Precinct 7 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.1	<b>GROW: Expand and improve open space in priority locations</b>				
	<p>Enhance accessibility to open space by addressing walkability gaps within urban areas of the Shire. Prioritise identifying and developing key locations for new or expanded open spaces, ensuring all residents have convenient access to recreational areas, with a focus on areas designated for future growth.</p> <p><i>NB: Gaps prioritised around areas of substantial and incremental change as designated in the Housing and Settlement Strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore open space land acquisition, shared use and/or improvement of open space in Dromana and Rosebud (refer gap areas on Precinct map pg.164 &amp; 167) to establish a new local recreation park with play provision, focusing on areas east of the primary school and the northern part of town. If acquisition is not feasible, improve existing park infrastructure to mitigate the gap in open space provision.</li> <li>Develop approximately 2.19 hectares of Council-owned land at Allambi Avenue, Capel Sound as public open space with a neighbourhood-level playspace, in line with Neighbourhood Public Open Space standards to address the identified gap in local provision and rezone the subject land to Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ).</li> <li>Advocate for the removal of the PAO held by the Department of Transport and Planning (VicRoads) for the future extension of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, and for the transfer of the corridor to the Shire for public open space, in line with Council's resolution of 13 June 2017, and via the Integrated Transport Strategy (in development).</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
2.3	<b>GROW: Develop a clear and actionable open space Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018</b>				
	<p>Review and rationalise open space by identifying underutilised or redundant sites and implementing a clear, actionable, and transparent Disposal and Acquisition process in line with the Mornington Peninsula Property Strategy 2018, to better meet community needs, improve access, and strategically address open space gaps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify open space areas that may have limited function, poor access, or are located very close to other similar spaces (within 200 metres). Explore opportunities to enhance the value of these spaces, such as improving their use, combining them with nearby spaces, or repurposing them to better serve the community. Initial area of focus includes: Rosebud, where there may be opportunities to make better use of existing open space.</li> <li>Establish and implement a transparent, equitable land transaction (disposal, acquisition and reallocation) process that aligns with legislation and public acquisition overlays, supported through an assessment of need, benchmarking and community consultation.</li> <li>Integrate with the Property Strategy when due for review.</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 2	Property Strategy and Operations Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

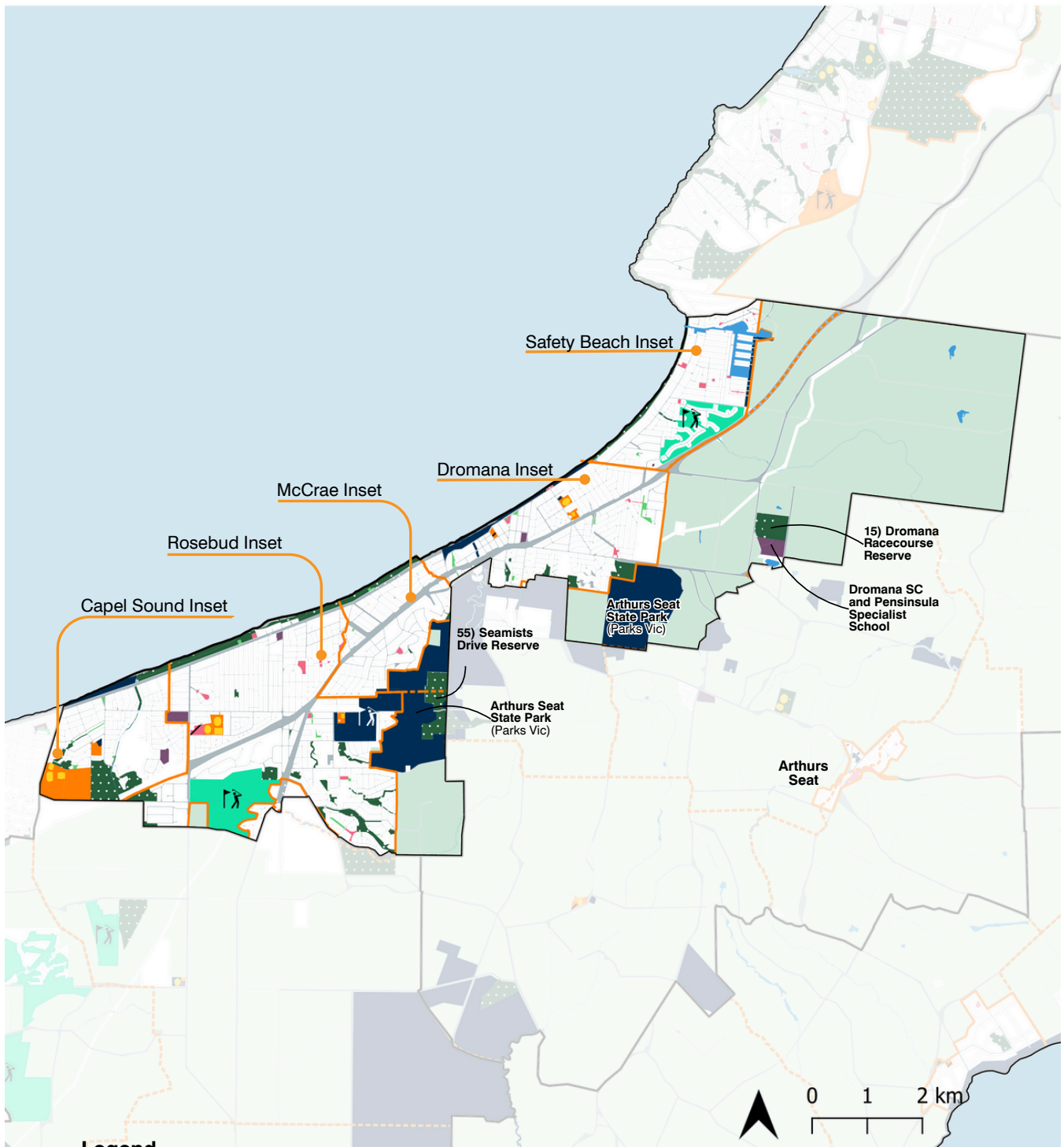
## Precinct 7 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.6	<b>GROW: Partner with schools to share open space for mutual benefit</b>				
	Develop a plan to work with schools to facilitate shared access to open spaces, including playgrounds and ovals, in areas with gaps in open space provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop shared use agreements for playgrounds, ovals, and other facilities.</li> <li>• Consider after-hours access through measures like open gates or signage.</li> <li>• Align the approach with the Plan for Victoria.</li> <li>• Identify schools in areas with open space gaps.</li> <li>• Enter into negotiations with the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eastbourne Primary School</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 3	Property Strategy and Operations Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team  Peninsula Sports Development Team

## Precinct 7 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>3.1</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Improve the quality of open space in priority areas.</b>				
	<p>Enhance the quality and functionality of key reserves, prioritising parks with limited nearby alternatives, and low performance ratings.</p> <p><i>**Reserves have been prioritised where there are no other higher-performing reserves nearby</i></p> <p><i>**All recommendations should be tested with the local community to confirm priorities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lugano Reserve, Dromana (27): Prioritise improvements by adding park furniture and increasing planting to enhance the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the space.</li> <li>• Fig Street Reserve, Dromana (South Portion): Focus on minimal furniture upgrades, in line with its role as a local recreation park, to support informal, low-maintenance use.</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	<p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p> <p>Project Delivery Team</p>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Better distribute play opportunities</b>				
	<p>Review the Mornington Peninsula Shire Playspace Strategy 2015–2020 and assess opportunities to address gaps in play provision, while rationalising playgrounds in precincts with both oversupply and unmet demand to ensure equitable and efficient access across the Shire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider planning for a playspace within the following play gaps in growth areas (incremental change): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Support Capel Sound Foreshore (Committee of Management to explore nature play opportunities along the foreshore)</li> <li>◦ Benbenjie Reserve, McCrae (28)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	<p>Horizon 1 (Planning)</p> <p>Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)</p>	<p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>
<b>3.5</b>	<b>OPTIMISE: Review existing and develop new masterplans for complex and underperforming reserves</b>				
	<p>Prioritise and develop masterplans for parks and reserves to meet community needs and support sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess, identify and prioritise district or regional open spaces that support complex and overlapping activities, have limited nearby alternatives, or possess unique characteristics and are identified as high-use and or highly sensitive.</li> <li>• Engage the community in the planning process to ensure plans reflect local priorities and align with broader Council strategies for sustainability, asset renewal, and infrastructure development.</li> <li>• Develop masterplans for district reserves with a performance score below 60%, in line with capital works and asset renewal programs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Pier Street Reserve, Dromana (30)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Medium - High	<p>Horizon 1 (Planning)</p> <p>Horizon 2-3 (Rollout)</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team</p>

# Precinct 7 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

Sport	Field of play
Recreation	Restricted Access
Conservation/Foreshore	Managed as a Bushland Reserve
Other Functions	

### Other Land

Non Council Managed Open Space	Open Space in Other Municipalities
Public School	Railway Line
Green Wedge Land	

Public Golf Council
Public Golf Council (crown land)
Private Golf Course/Club

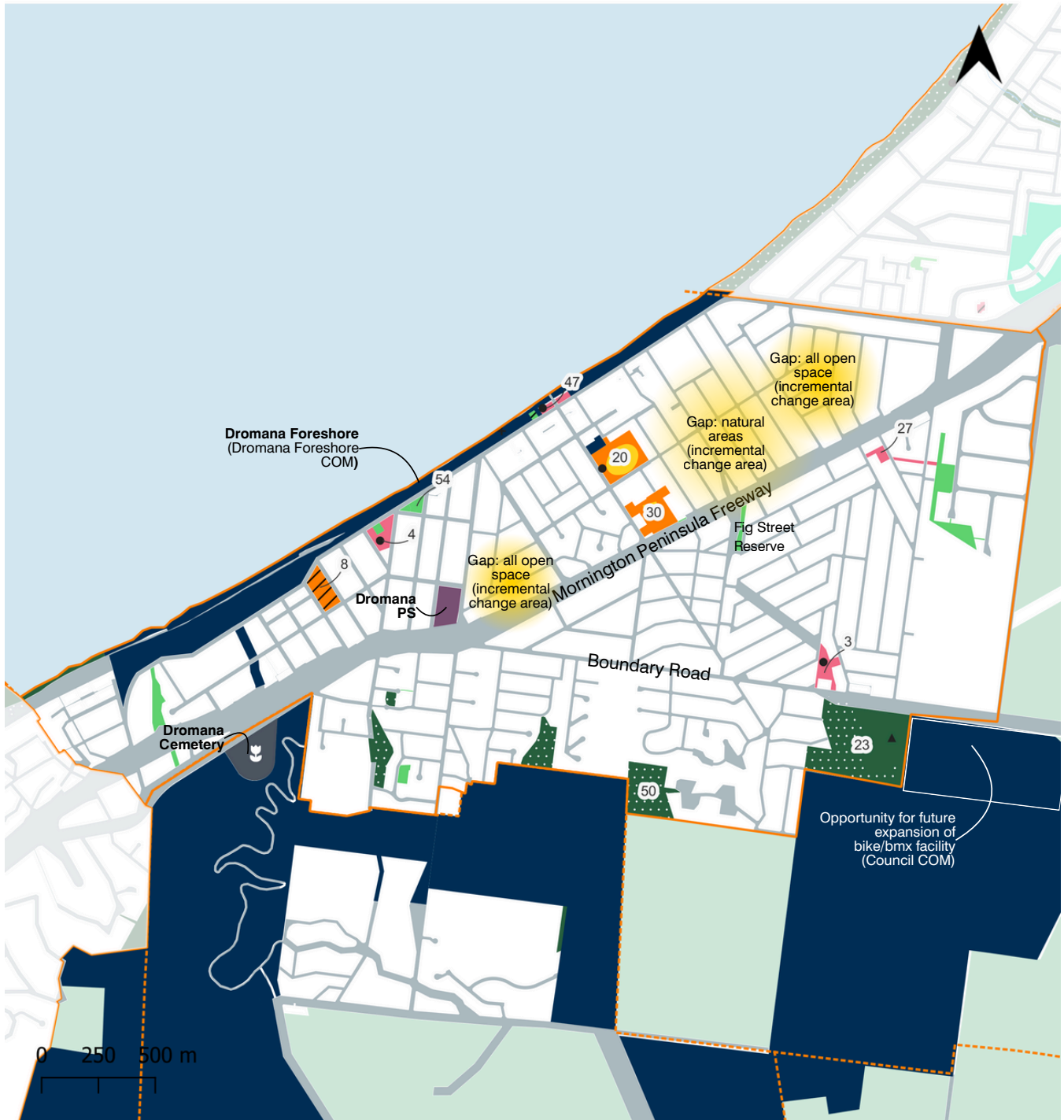
Township Boundary
Inset Boundary



## Safety Beach Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
11	Pickings Road Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.40
12	Royal Freemasons OS	Recreation		Local	0.13
13	Horizons Community Park	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.13
14	Moonlight Mews Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.20
24	Dromana Parade Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.03
25	Anchorage Park	Recreation		Local	0.11
31	Martha Cove Playground	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.24
32	Clipper Quay 1	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.04
33	Clipper Quay 2	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.05
34	Clipper Quay 3	Recreation		Local	0.06
36	Brindabella Point	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.03
39	Anchorage Avenue Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.17
40	Harbour Esplanade Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.29
42	Iluka Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.04
43	Oceanic Drive Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.40
44	Helsal Point	Recreation		Local	0.03
45	Sovereign Point	Recreation		Local	0.03
46	Ragamuffin Point	Recreation		Local	0.03
48	Safety Beach Foreshore	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	19.30

# Dromana Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- ☪ Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- ⛏ Public Golf Council
- ⛏ Public Golf Council (crown land)
- ⛏ Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

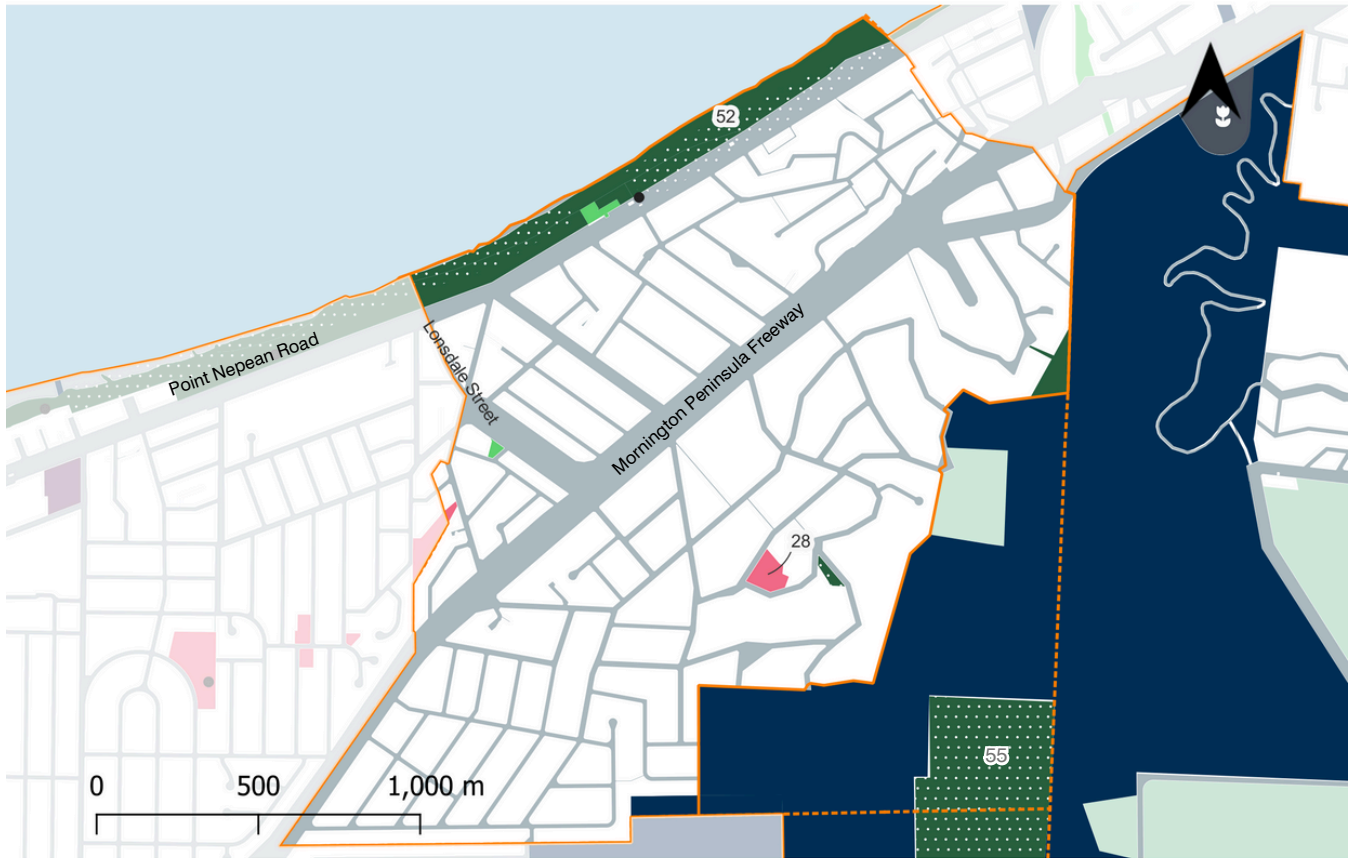
### Play Assets

- Playground
- ▲ Skate/BMX
- + Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Dromana Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
3	Lombardy Avenue Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	1.04
4	Dromana Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.93
8	Dromana Country Bowls Club	Sport	Recreation	Restricted Access	1.40
15	Dromana Racecourse Reserve (precinct 7 map)	Conservation	Recreation	District	25.44
20	Dromana Recreation Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	3.23
23	Hillview Community Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Neighbourhood	12.25
27	Lugano Avenue Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.59
30	Pier Street Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	2.45
47	Ruddock Square	Recreation		Local	0.35
50	Jackson Way Reserve	Conservation	Nature		4.16
54	Dromana Community Hall Grounds	Other	Recreation	Local	0.42

## McCrae Inset & Index



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

#### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

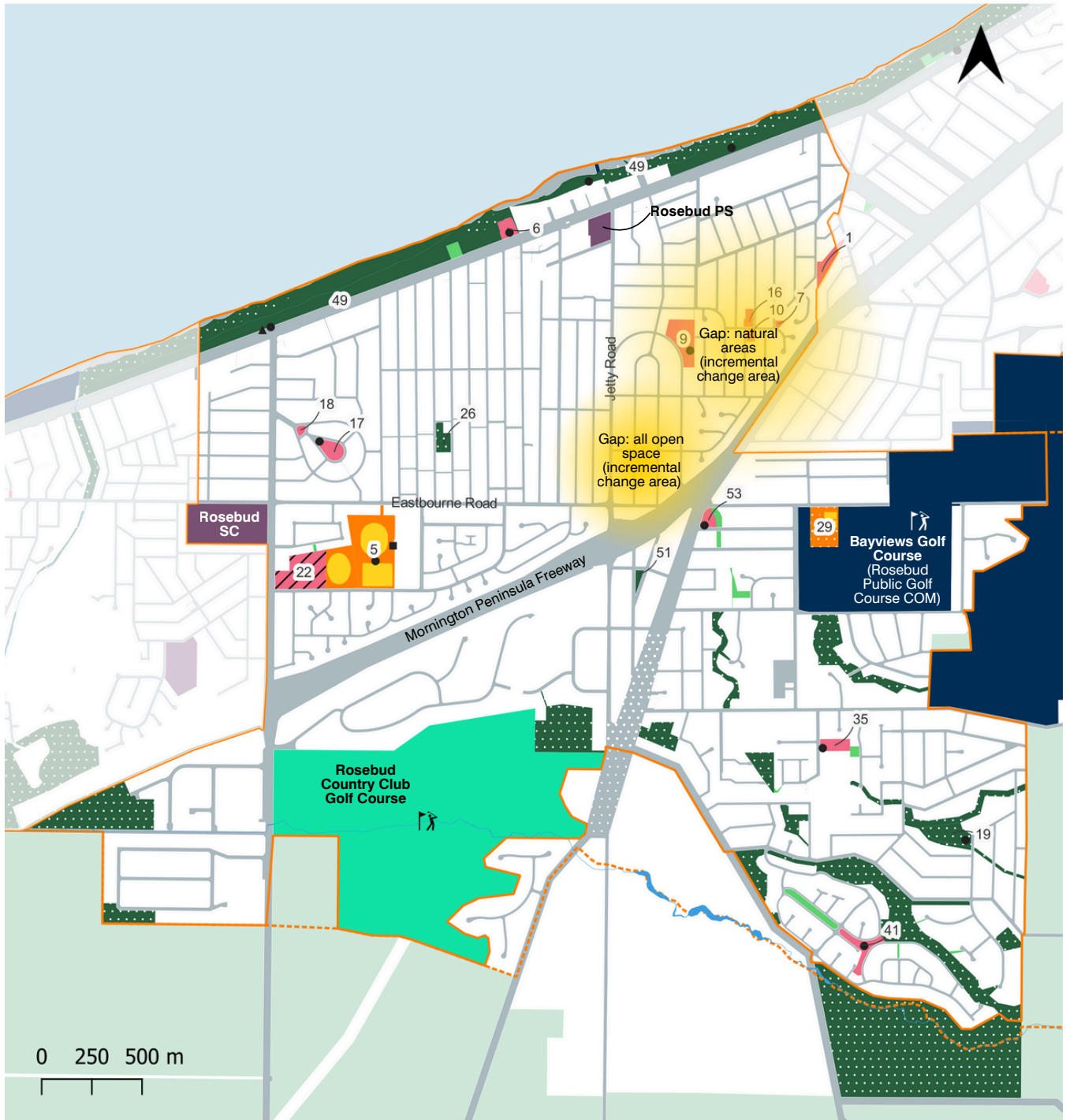
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

#### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
28	Benbenjie Reserve	Recreation		Neighbourhood	0.95
52	McCrae Foreshore	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	17.71
55	Seamists Drive Reserve (precinct 7 map)	Conservation	Nature		40.2

# Rosebud Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

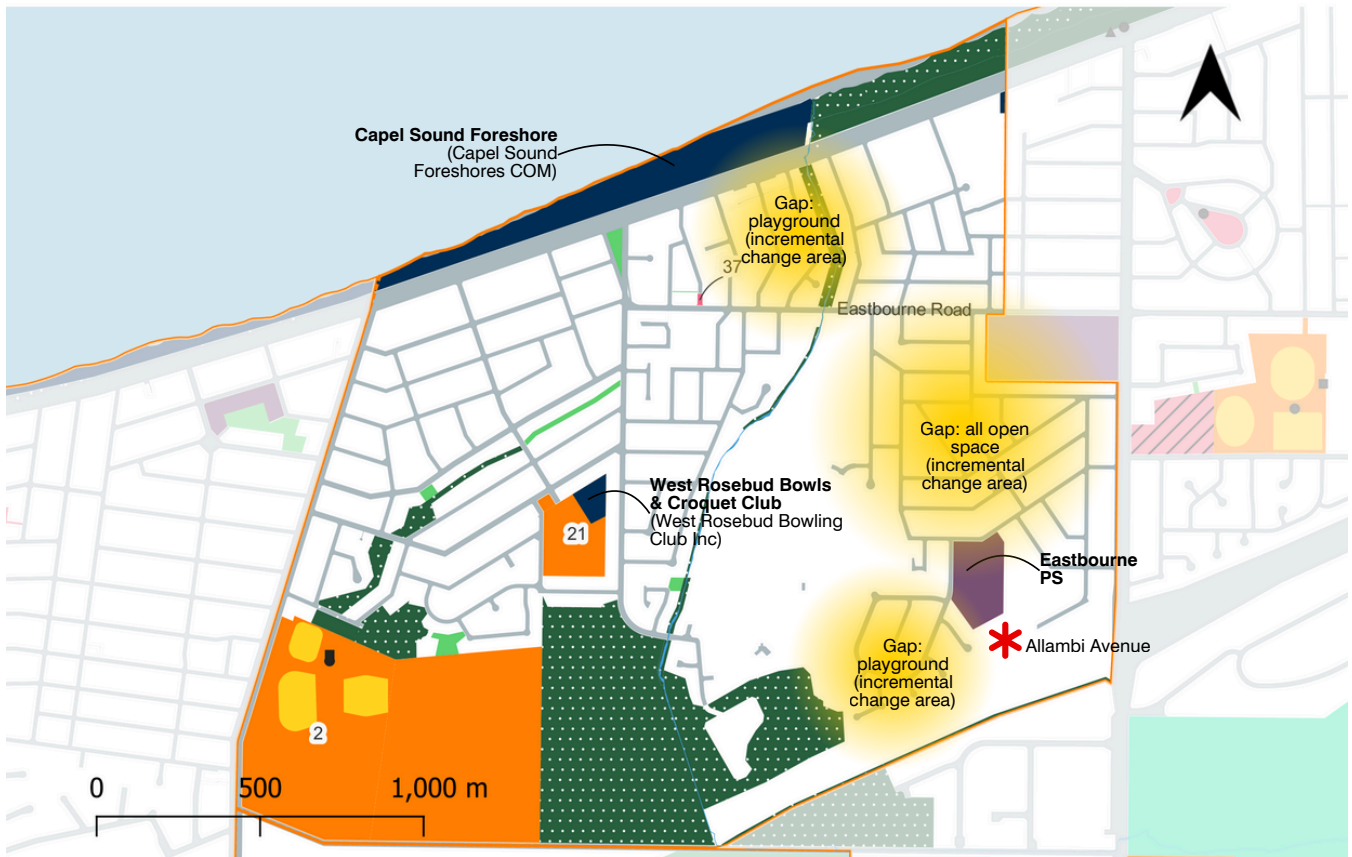
### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Rosebud Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	Woodvale Grove Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Neighbourhood	1.03
5	Olympic Park	Sport	Recreation	District	10.70
6	Rosebud Bowling Club	Recreation	Sport	Local	0.74
7	Vickie Court Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.12
9	Lawson Park	Recreation		Neighbourhood	2.36
10	Woonton Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.25
16	Martin Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.39
17	Murrowong Avenue Reserve	Recreation		Neighbourhood	0.95
18	Warranilla Avenue Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.18
19	Goolgowie Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Local	4.50
22	Civic Reserve	Recreation		Restricted	3.89
26	Banksia Woods Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.90
29	Hove Road Tennis Club	Sport	Conservation		2.82
35	Coral Close Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.89
41	Terry Goddard Reserve	Recreation		Local	1.20
49	Rosebud Foreshore	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	45.17
51	Bass Avenue Bushland Reserve	Nature			1.56
53	Waterfall Gully Preschool Grounds	Recreation		Local	0.56

# Capel Sound Inset & Index



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
2	Truemans Road Recreation Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	52.08
21	Vern Wright Reserve	Sport	Recreation	Neighbourhood	4.99
37	Galley Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.06

# Precinct 8

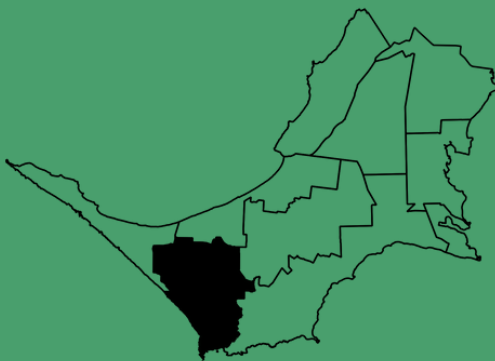
Boneo, Fingal, Cape Schanck

## Overview

The entirety of the precinct is zoned Green Wedge, with the Cape Shank golf course community serving as the largest population centre. Home to 1,521 residents across 87 square kilometres, the precinct has the third-lowest population density at 17.5 people per square kilometre. The inland landscape features gentle rolling hills, golf courses, market gardens, and remnant vegetation. The coastline is rugged and isolated, with cliffs and beaches facing Bass Strait. Ecologically rich, the precinct includes a significant portion of the Mornington Peninsula National Park, with herb-rich woodlands, heath and heathy woodland, extensive wetlands, and coastal scrub grasslands, particularly southeast of Rye along the Bass Strait coast.

Due to the predominant Green Wedge zoning within the precinct, future growth is restricted.

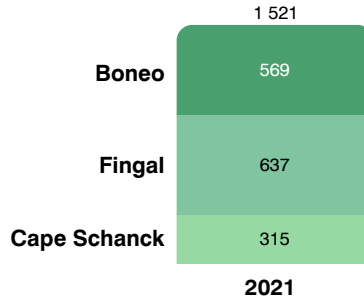
Precinct Type: **Rural**



# Precinct Overview



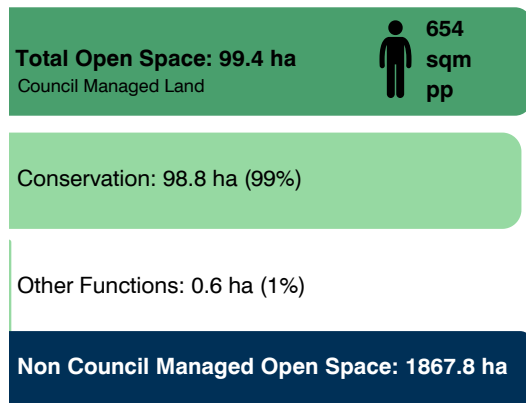
## Population



Population projections are not available in precinct 8 due a splitting of the i.d forecast small area to better reflect land use within the precinct. Due to the predominance of the Green Wedge Zone within the precinct it is not expected to experience growth into the future.

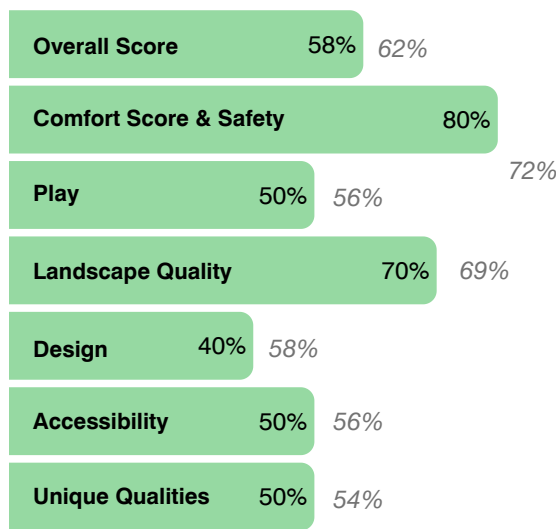
Source: forecast .id

## Open Space Provision



\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

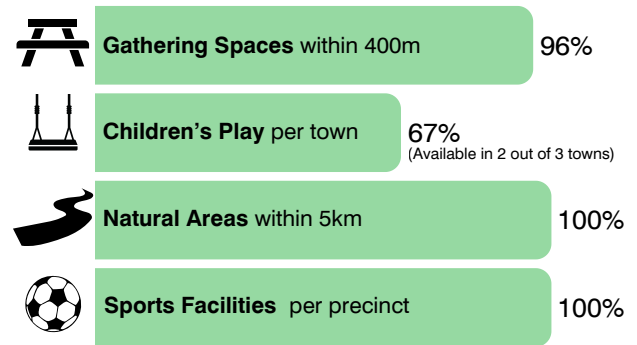
## Performance Measures



% of total sites with unique qualities

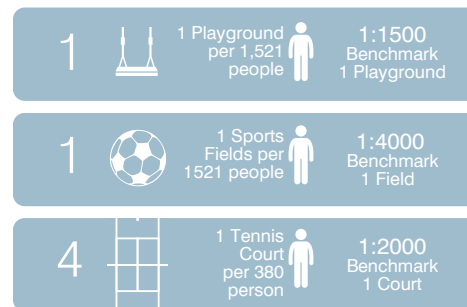
\*Shire Average

## Experience Access



\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



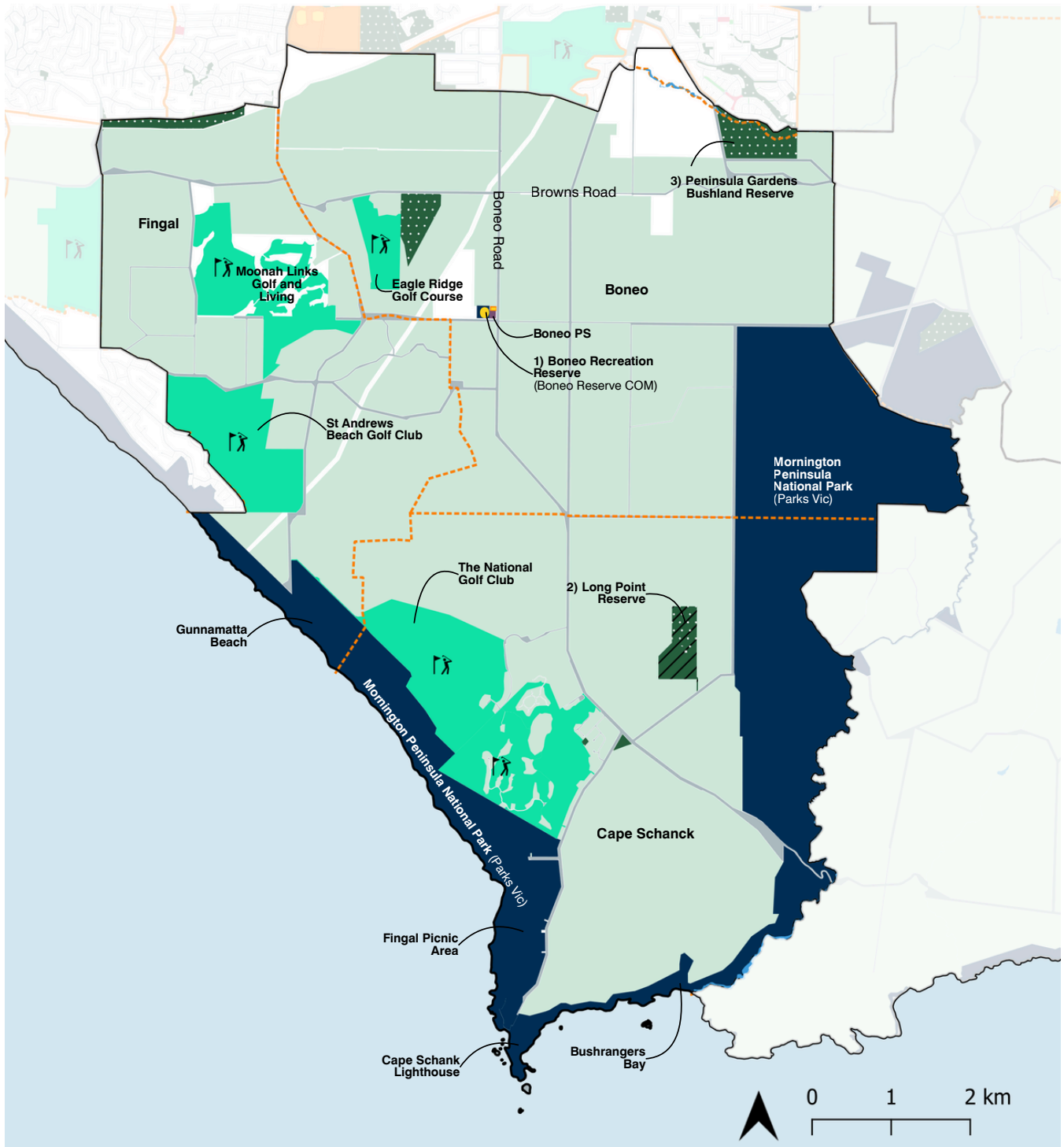
\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan - Volume 1 - 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Open Space Analysis

Provision of open space within precinct 8 is almost entirely conservation with extensive walking tracks throughout Mornington Peninsula Nation Park (managed by Parks Victoria)

Boneo Recreation Reserve is the sole multifunctional sport and recreation reserve serving the entire precinct.

# Precinct 8 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

- Sport
- Field of play
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Restricted Access
- Managed as a Bushland Reserve

### Other Land

- Non Council Managed Open Space
- Open Space in Other Municipalities
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club

- Township Boundary
- Inset Boundary

## Precinct 8 Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	Boneo Recreation Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	3.75
2	Long Point Reserve	Environmental Conservation	Sport	Restricted Access	35.45
3	Peninsula Gardens Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		44.67

## Precinct 8 Actions

No site-specific open space actions have been proposed for this precinct due to its geographic and planning context.

The area is predominantly zoned Green Wedge, which limits development and future population growth.

Much of the precinct is also made up of the Mornington Peninsula National Park and other conservation areas managed by Parks Victoria and State agencies, placing most land outside Council's direct control.

Accordingly, the strategy does not identify localised actions for individual open space sites. However, one Shire-wide growth action (Action 2.1) has partial relevance to this precinct, noting the advocacy required to progress the long-term intent for the former Mornington Peninsula Freeway corridor.

All other Shire-wide actions and priorities also continue to apply, including those relating to biodiversity protection, access and open space connectivity.

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
2.1	<b>GROW: Expand and improve open space in priority locations</b>				
	<p>Enhance accessibility to open space by addressing walkability gaps within urban areas of the Shire. Prioritise identifying and developing key locations for new or expanded open spaces, ensuring all residents have convenient access to recreational areas, with a focus on areas designated for future growth.</p> <p><i>NB: Gaps prioritised around areas of substantial and incremental change as designated in the Housing and Settlement Strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for the removal of the PAO held by the Department of Transport and Planning (VicRoads) for the future extension of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, and for the transfer of the corridor to the Shire for public open space, in line with Council's resolution of 13 June 2017, and via the Integrated Transport Strategy (in development).</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

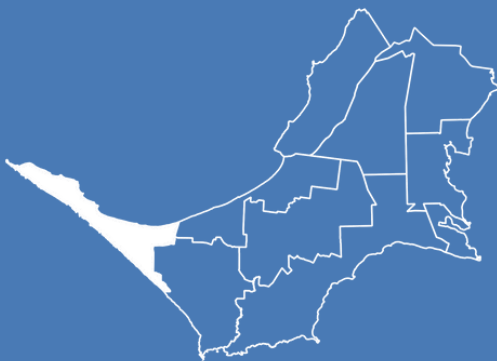
# Precinct 9

Tootgarook, St Andrews Beach, Blairgowrie,  
Rye, Sorrento, Portsea

## Overview

With a population of 19,341 spread across 48 square kilometres, precinct 9 includes dense population centres along Port Phillip Bay and a coastal semi-rural landscape, including St Andrews Beach, which faces the rugged coastline of Bass Strait. Known for its coastal culture, the area is a significant tourist destination and a popular location for holiday homes. Urbanisation is bounded by and interspersed with remnant coastal ecologies, including the vulnerable coastal scrubs, grasslands, and woodlands. Most of the remnant vegetation is within the Point Nepean National Park, with linear pockets along the rugged Bass Strait coastline and between the holiday spots along Port Phillip Bay. Population growth is forecast to remain steady at an average of 0.15% per year over the next two decades.

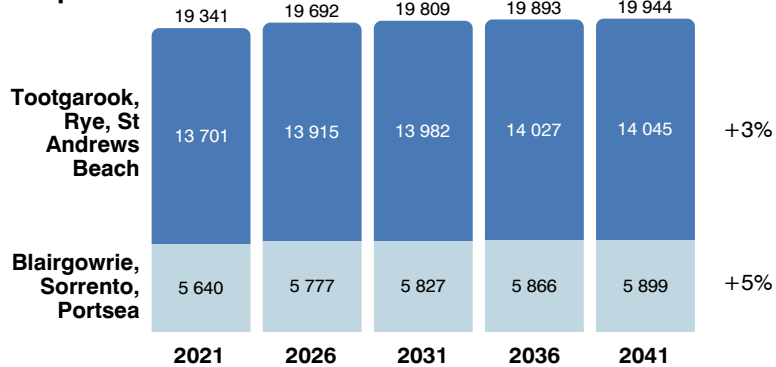
Precinct Type: **Coastal**



# Precinct Overview

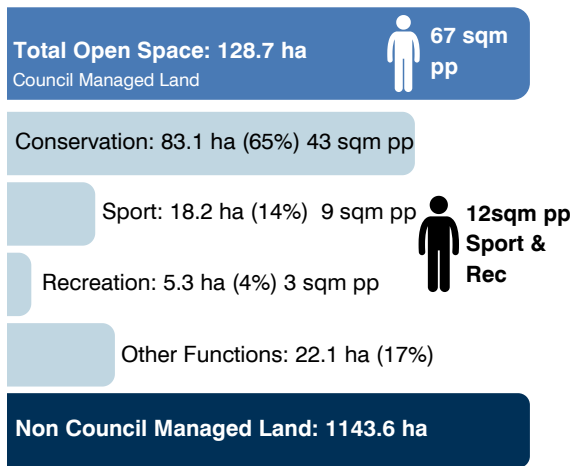


## Population



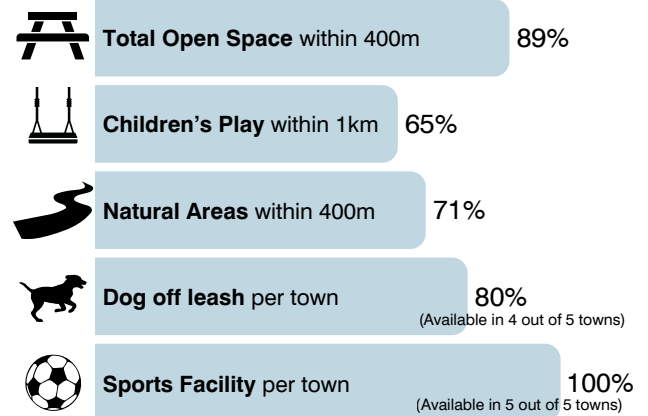
Source: forecast .id

## Open Space Provision



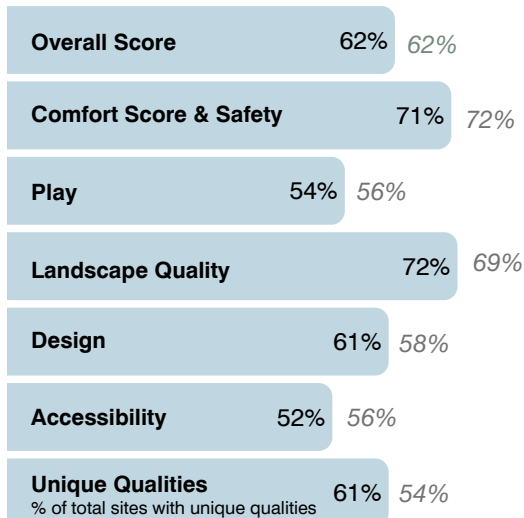
\* Open space provision ratios are all based on 2021 Forecast ID data

## Experience Access



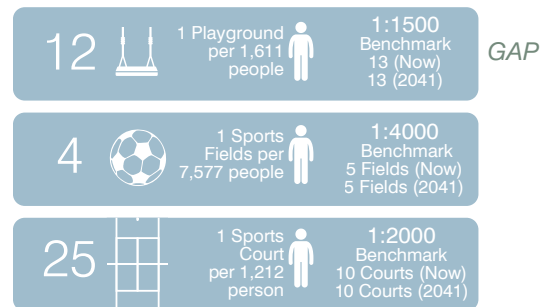
\*Refer 'Our Open Space' Section 4.6: Experience Standards

## Performance Measures



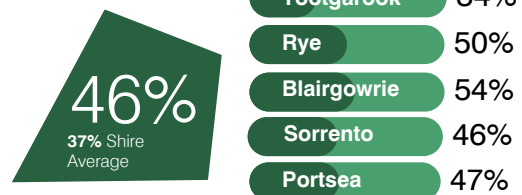
\*Shire Average

## Infrastructure Provision (2021)



\*Benchmarks are based on industry-average provision ratios and are intended as a guide only. Local context and demand should be considered when applying them. For detailed, sport-specific infrastructure requirements, refer to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Sports Capacity Plan - Volume 1 - 3 (Volume 1 was adopted in 2019 and Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).

## Canopy Cover



# Precinct 9 Analysis

## Key Issues

Provision of open space is good in precinct 9 with a significant amount of coastal open space managed by Parks Victoria and DEECA committees of management. Open space primarily classified for sport and recreation is the lowest of the precincts pointing to the dominance of natural bushland areas within the precinct.

Open Space plays an important role in implementation of the Rye Township Plan's four key principles:

- Preserving the natural environment and promoting Rye as a demonstration Township for sustainability and eco-living
- Improving connections for pedestrians and cyclists
- Building on existing culture and heritage to promote a sense of place and local identity
- Creating a revitalised public domain to establish a thriving destination across all seasons.

## Experience Access

Open space distribution is generally average in precinct 9 but there are no priority gaps with the majority of gaps being in low density areas.

In land, open space is predominantly conservation some with secondary recreation functions but very little space dedicated solely to recreation.

There are no dog off leash areas in Rye.

## Priority Gaps



Rye - There is an emerging gap in open space provision related to incremental growth

## Park Performance

Open space quality is good in coastal areas but local parks situated away from the foreshore are not functioning as well. There are 5 parks with overall performance scores below 40% in the precinct as follows.

- Kevin Street Reserve, Tootgarook 20% (low priority)
- Spinner Court Reserve, Sorrento 20% (medium priority)
- Peter Shelmerdine Reserve, Portsea 40% (high priority)
- Wattle Grove Bushland Reserve, Portsea 40% (low priority)
- French Street Reserve, Rye 36% (high priority)

## Coastal Open Space

Coastal open space is the primary form of open space for recreation and leisure within Precinct 9.

This area is expected to be increasingly influenced by natural coastal processes, particularly erosion and storm tide inundation. In some locations, the combined effects of catchment and coastal flooding may present more complex challenges.

Sorrento has been identified as a priority location for further coastal planning and assessment due to its growing exposure to these risks. As one of the Shire's most visited coastal destinations, with annual beach-related expenditure estimated at \$135 million, future erosion could impact public infrastructure that supports tourism and community access.

Proactive planning will help ensure this iconic destination remains resilient and enjoyable for generations to come.

Portsea has also been identified as a key area for ongoing coastal assessment and planning, given its exposure to erosion and inundation risks, some of which have already been observed in recent years. Temporary sandbag protection is currently in place near the pier to help manage these impacts.

As a popular tourism destination, the coastal open space in Portsea supports a range of land uses and visitor experiences. Continued planning and management will help protect this valued coastal area into the future.

## Supporting Plans

- French Street Master Plan, 2020
- Police Point Conservation Action Plan and Landscape Master Plan, 2012
- Portsea Coastal and Marine Management Plan, 2024
- Rye Foreshore Master Plan
- Rye Township Plan, 2020
- Recreational Facilities for Mountain Bike and BMX Strategy, 2023
- Tootgarook Wetland Management Plan, 2018
- Sports Capacity Plan – Volume 1 – 3 (Volume 2 and 3 were adopted by Council in November 2025).
- Sorrento Coastal and Marine Management Plan, 2018
- Sorrento Foreshore Masterplan, 2023

## Precinct 9 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
<b>1.1</b>	<b>PROTECT: Implement Planning Scheme Amendments to Secure and Strengthen Open Space Outcomes</b>				
	Undertake a planning scheme amendment to embed strategic directions, and update zoning to reflect the strategic directions of this Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rezone high priority parcels identified for long-term public open space use to appropriate open space zones:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change to PPRZ:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W E Newton Reserve (19)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Change to PCRZ:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dimmicks Bushland Reserve (8)</li> <li>Jack Ritchie Track Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Tyrone Bushland Reserve</li> <li>Harry Blythe Playground (25)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Strategic Planning Team  Planning Services Team
<b>1.7</b>	<b>PROTECT: Proactively plan for the impact of future climate change on open spaces</b>				
	Support the implementation of the Mornington Peninsula Biodiversity Conservation Plan and Our Coast Our Future Coastal Strategy by prioritising actions that help manage and adapt to the impacts of climate change across the open space network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with local environmental, landcare and reserve friends-groups, prioritise open spaces for revegetation and habitat restoration using climate-resilient indigenous species to strengthen ecological corridors and buffer vulnerable habitats, working with ecologists, land managers, and Traditional Owners to map high-priority areas.</li> <li>Protect and deliver open space upgrades near the foreshore in line with Coastal and Marine Management Plans (CMMPs) and consult the Coastal Strategy modelling and recommendations to ensure upgrades are future-proofed, and proactively select sites and infrastructure for resilience.</li> <li>Investigate methods to mitigate and minimise sand drift and other impacts of climate change at Rye Foreshore via the Sand Management Strategy (in development).</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1-3	Climate Change Team  Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team
<b>2.1</b>	<b>GROW: Expand and improve open space in priority locations</b>				
	Enhance accessibility to open space by addressing walkability gaps within urban areas of the Shire. Prioritise identifying and developing key locations for new or expanded open spaces, ensuring all residents have convenient access to recreational areas, with a focus on areas designated for future growth.  <i>NB: Gaps prioritised around areas of substantial and incremental change as designated in the Housing and Settlement Strategy.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for the removal of the PAO held by the Department of Transport and Planning (VicRoads) for the future extension of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, and for the transfer of the corridor to the Shire for public open space, in line with Council's resolution of 13 June 2017, and via the Integrated Transport Strategy (in development).</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team

## Precinct 9 Actions

No.	Action	Tasks	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility
3.1	<b>OPTIMISE: Improve the quality of open space in priority areas</b>				
	Enhance the quality and functionality of key reserves, prioritising parks with limited nearby alternatives, and low performance ratings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French Street Reserve (23), Rye. Prioritise improvement to park access and enhance the functionality and appeal through the addition of trees, park furniture, dog leash free area, bike facility to implement the French Street Master Plan (2020) and the Recreational Facilities for Mountain Bike and BMX Strategy (2023).</li> <li>Peter Shelmerdine Reserve (9), Portsea: Focus on minimal furniture addition to improve the functionality of the reserve.</li> </ul>	Medium	Horizon 2	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Project Delivery Team
3.5	<b>OPTIMISE: Review existing and develop new masterplans for complex and underperforming reserves</b>				
	Prioritise and develop masterplans for parks and reserves to meet community needs and support sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess, identify and prioritise district or regional open spaces that support complex and overlapping activities, have limited nearby alternatives, or possess unique characteristics and are identified as high-use and or highly sensitive.</li> <li>Engage the community in the planning process to ensure plans reflect local priorities and align with broader Council strategies for sustainability, asset renewal, and infrastructure development.</li> <li>Develop masterplans for district reserves with a performance score below 60%, in line with capital works and asset renewal programs, including: R J Rowley Recreation Reserve, Rye (13)</li> </ul> <p><i>NB: Reserves have been prioritised where there are no other higher-performing reserves nearby. All recommendations should be tested with the local community to confirm priorities.</i></p>	Medium - High	Horizon 1 (Planning) Horizon 2-3 (Rollout) Ongoing	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Project Delivery Team
3.6	<b>OPTIMISE: Support the implementation of existing masterplans</b>				
	Support the implementation of master/concept plans to enhance the open space network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French Street Reserve Master Plan (23)</li> </ul>	High	Horizon 1	Community Infrastructure and Open Space Planning Team Project Delivery Team

# Precinct 9 Open Space Map



## Legend

### Council Managed Open Space

Sport	Field of play
Recreation	Restricted Access
Conservation/Foreshore	Managed as a Bushland Reserve
Other Functions	

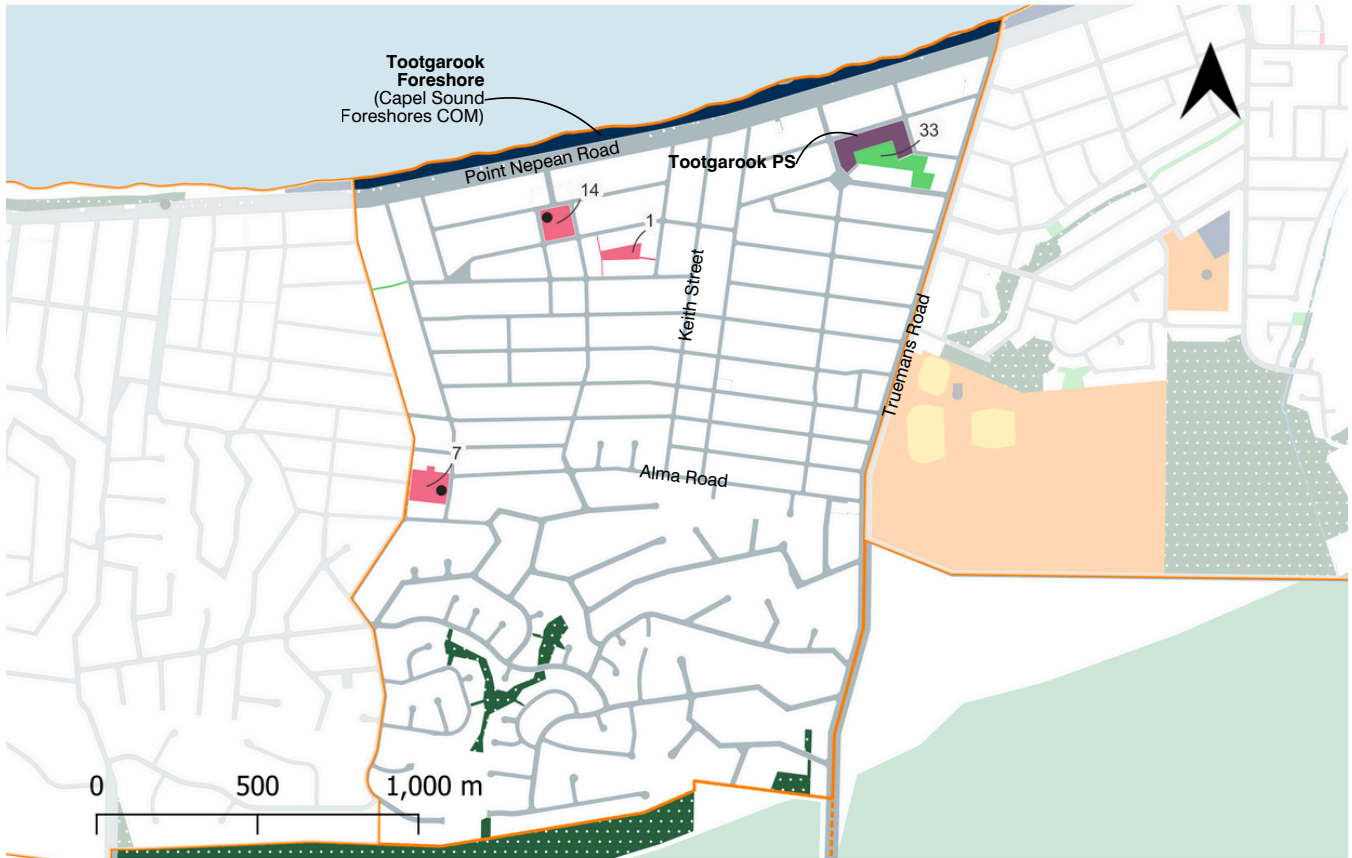
### Other Land

Non Council Managed Open Space	Open Space in Other Municipalities
Public School	Railway Line
Green Wedge Land	

Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)
Public Golf Council
Public Golf Council (crown land)
Private Golf Course/Club

Township Boundary
Inset Boundary

# Tootgarook Inset & Index



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

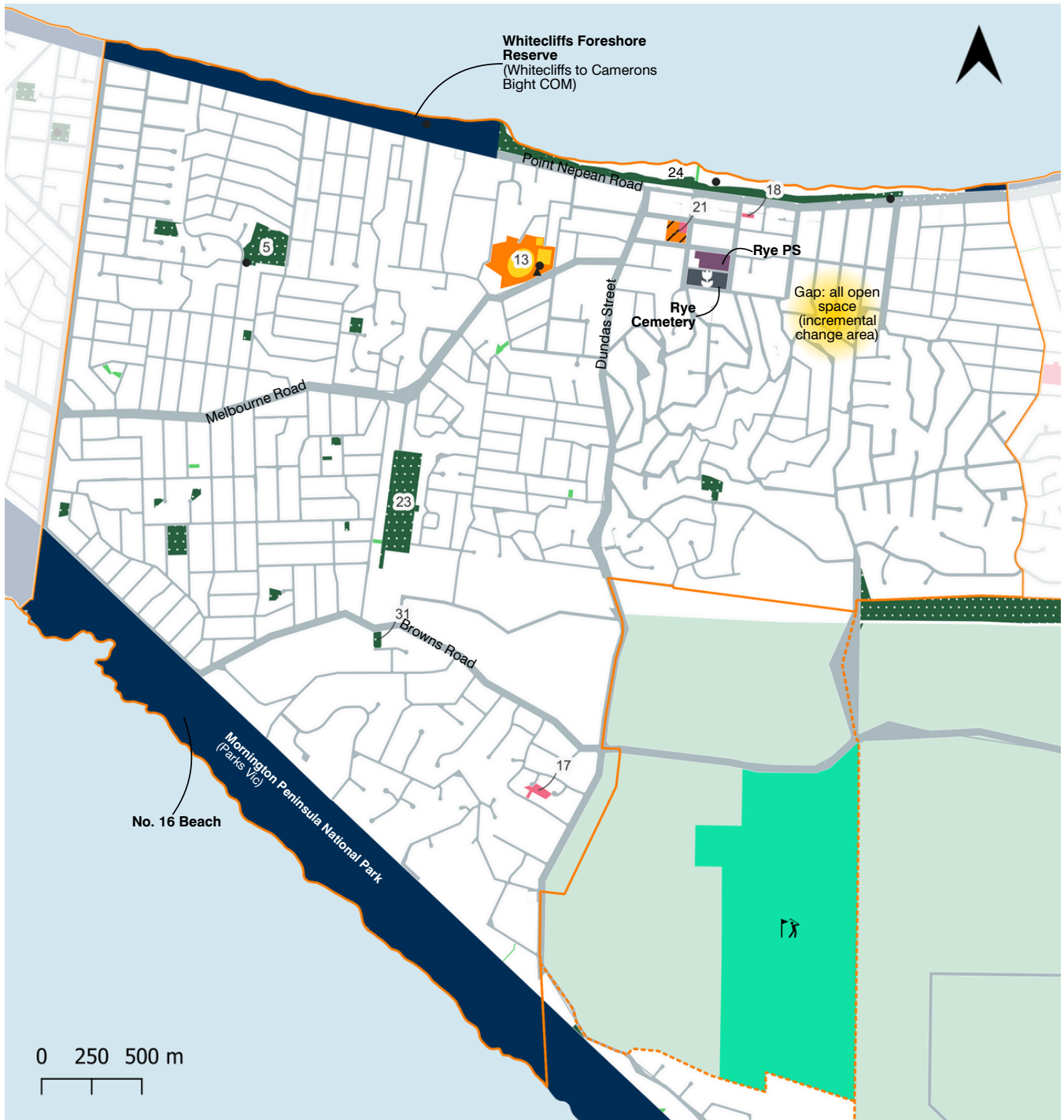
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
1	Kevin Street Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.55
7	Marshall Street Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Neighbourhood	1.16
14	Romney Park	Recreation		Local	0.92
33	Quinns Park	Other	Sport	Local	1.53

# Rye Inset



## Legend

### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve
- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

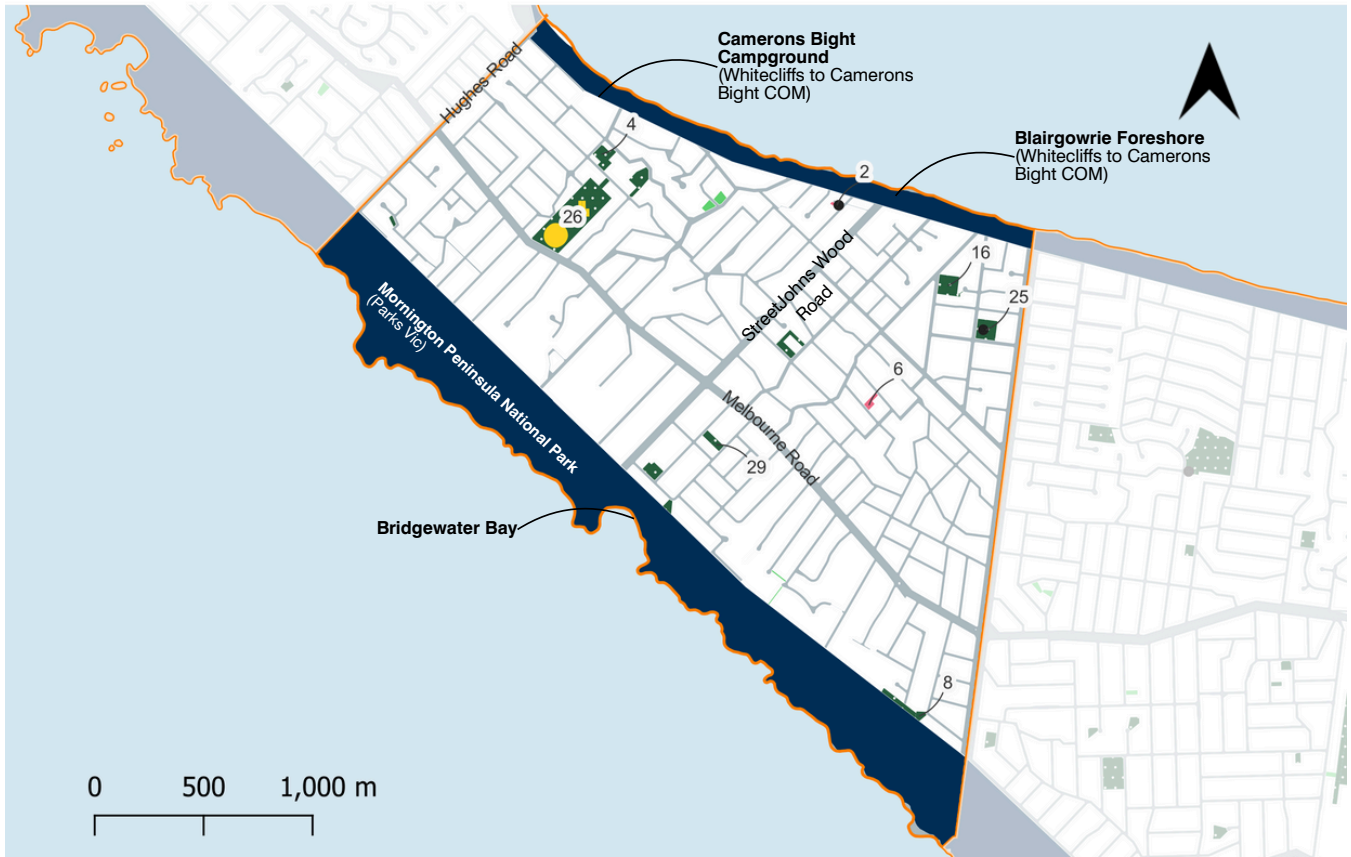
### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

## Rye Index

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
5	Moonah Waren Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Local	3.56
13	R J Rowley Recreation Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	6.05
17	Bruce Street	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.52
18	Community Grow and Play	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.11
21	Rye Bowls Club	Sport		Restricted Access	0.82
23	French Street Reserve	Conservation	Recreation	Local	7.26
24	Rye Foreshore	Conservation	Recreation	Regional	12.16
31	Aruntan Court Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.31

## Blairgowrie Inset & Index



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

#### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

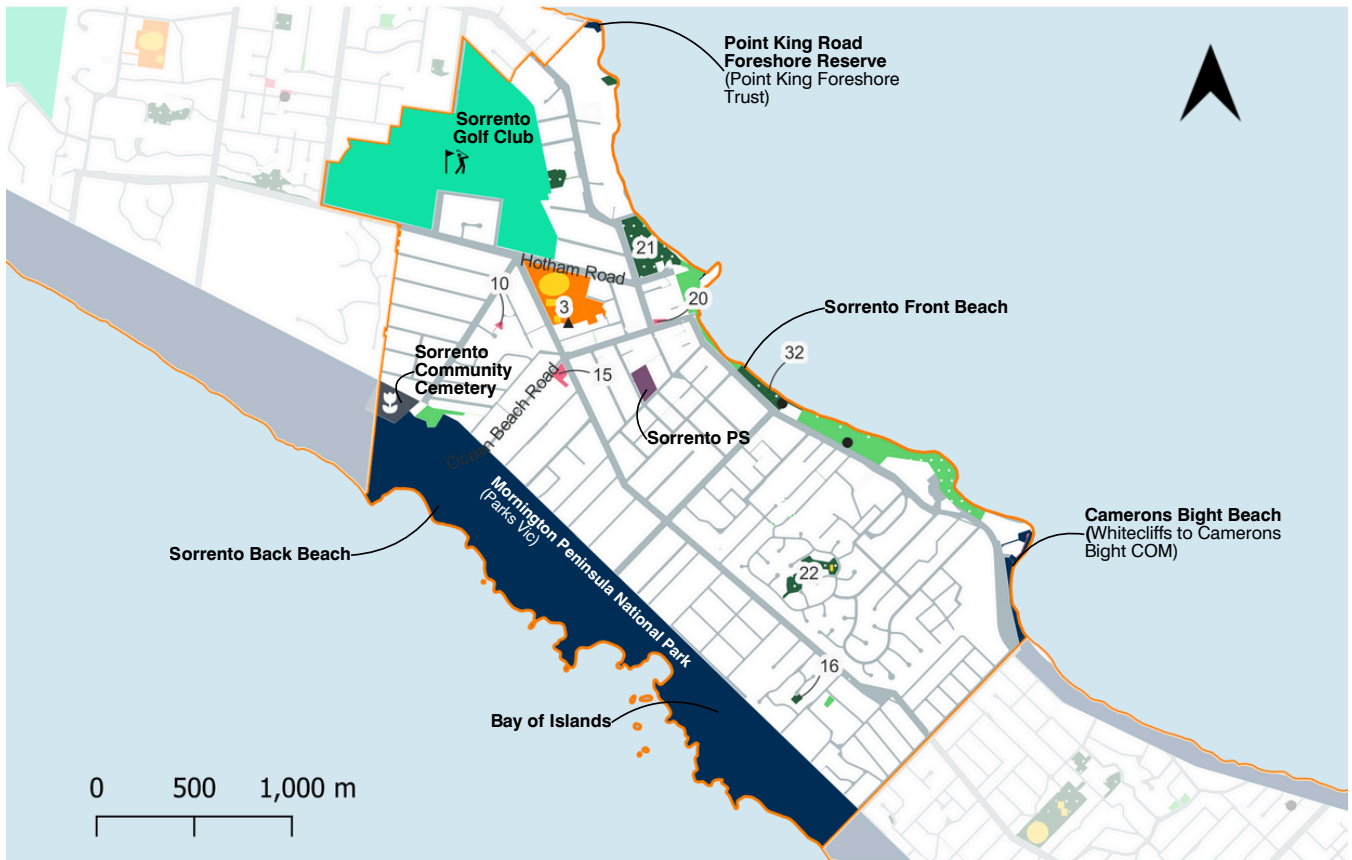
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

#### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
2	Roger Penman Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.10
4	Slips Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.61
6	Scott-Morris Street Park	Recreation	Water Management		0.19
8	Dimmicks Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.53
16	Childrens Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.81
25	Harry Blythe Playground	Conservation	Recreation	Local	0.81
26	Stringer Road Reserve	Conservation	Sport	Neighbourhood	5.12
29	Sid Baker Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.34

## Sorrento Inset & Index



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

- Sport
- Recreation
- Conservation/Foreshore
- Other Functions
- Bushland Reserve

- Field of play
- Priority Access Gap
- Restricted Access
- Non Council Managed Open Space

#### Other Land

- Cemetery
- Public School
- Railway Line
- Green Wedge Land

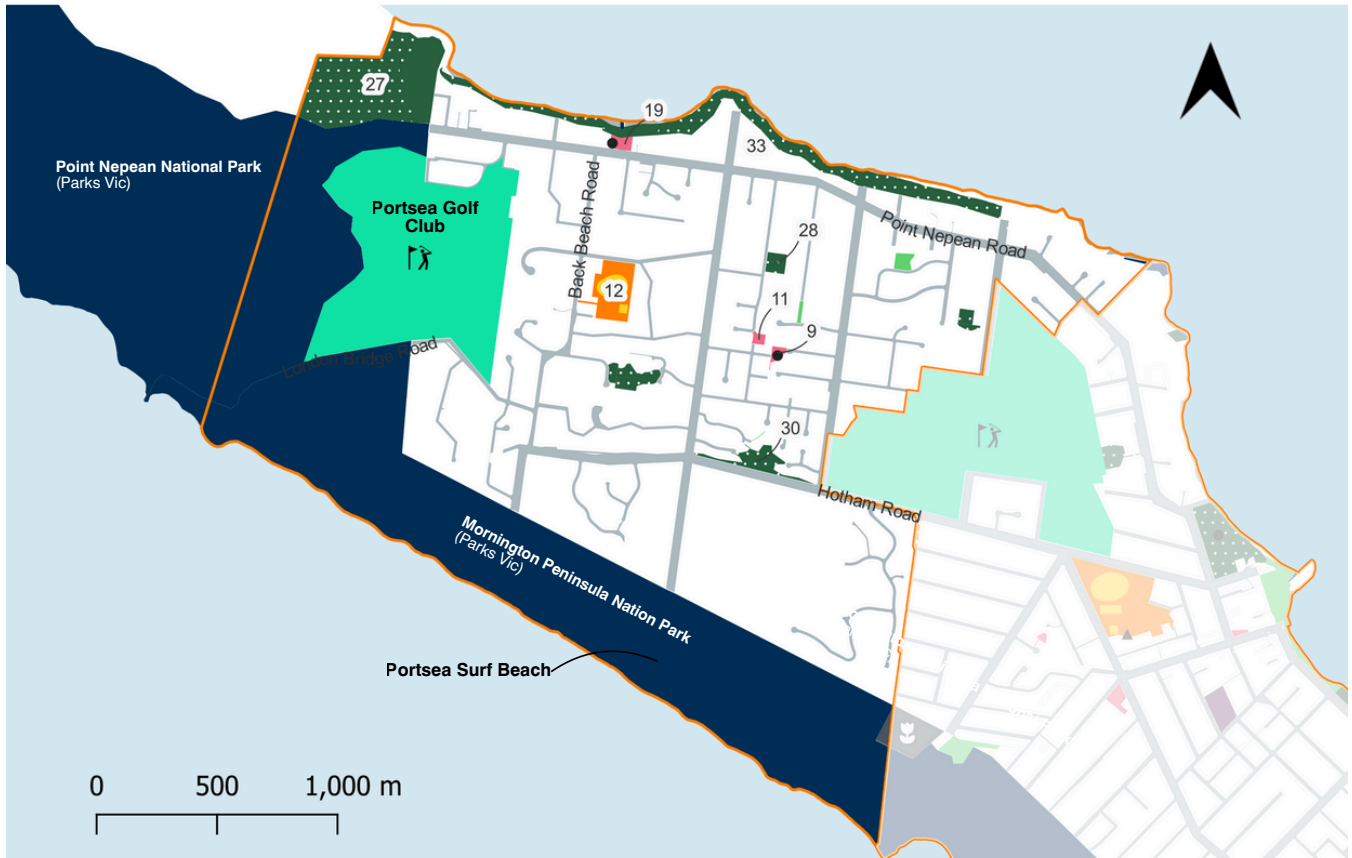
- Public Golf Council
- Public Golf Council (crown land)
- Private Golf Course/Club
- Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)

#### Play Assets

- Playground
- Skate/BMX
- Outdoor Fitness Station
- Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
3	David MacFarlan Reserve	Sport	Recreation	District	8.55
10	Spinner Court Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.12
15	Pioneer Memorial Garden	Recreation		Local	0.52
16	Tullyvallin Crescent Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.17
20	Stringers Corner Park	Recreation		Local	0.13
21	Sorrento Park	Conservation	Recreation	Regional	4.44
22	Tuckey Track Reserve	Conservation	Sport	Local	2.08
32	Sorrento Foreshore	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	2.03 <sup>199</sup>

## Portsea Inset & Index



### Legend

#### Open Space Primary Function

Sport	Field of play
Recreation	Priority Access Gap
Conservation/Foreshore	Restricted Access
Other Functions	Non Council Managed Open Space
Bushland Reserve	

#### Other Land

Cemetery	Public School
Railway Line	Green Wedge Land

#### Play Assets

Public Golf Council	Playground
Public Golf Council (crown land)	Skate/BMX
Private Golf Course/Club	Outdoor Fitness Station
Port of Hastings (State and Regionally Significant Industrial Land)	Basketball/halfcourt

No.	Name	Primary Function	Secondary Function	Hierarchy	Area
9	Peter Shelmerdine Reserve	Recreation	Water Management	Local	0.30
11	James Ford Reserve	Recreation	Linking	Local	0.23
12	Percy Cerutti Oval	Sport	Recreation	Neighbourhood	3.59
19	W E Newton Reserve	Recreation		Local	0.48
27	Police Point Shire Park	Conservation	Recreation	District	17.01
28	Wattle Grove Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		0.65
30	Yerlata Court Bushland Reserve	Conservation	Nature		1.69
33	Portsea Foreshore Reserve	Conservation	Water Foreshore	Regional	11.98
					200



**Attachment 1: Council Representatives and Substitute Representatives to non-delegated Committees, Associations, Peak Industry Bodies and Regional and Community organisations 2026**

	<b>Association/Committee</b>	<b>2026 Representative</b>	<b>2026 Substitute Representative</b>
1.	Arts and Culture Advisory Panel		
2.	Association of Bayside Municipalities		
3.	Audit and Risk Committee		
4.	Australian Coastal Councils		
5.	Bass Park Trust		
6.	Climate Emergency Community Reference Group		
7.	Disability Advisory Committee		
8.	Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM)		
9.	Health and Wellbeing Committee		
10.	Metropolitan Transport Forum		
11.	Mornington Peninsula and Western Port Biosphere Reserve Foundation – Council Liaison Group		
12.	Mornington Peninsula Cemetery Trust		
13.	Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV)		
14.	Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders (PACE)		
15.	South East Council's Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA)		
16.	Triple A Housing Committee		
17.	Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA)		