

Narrabri Special Activation Precinct

# Social & Community Infrastructure



## Technical Report

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Department of Planning & Environment  
April 2023

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge country and pay respects to the Gomeroi/Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi people as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waters on which the Narrabri Special Activation Precinct is located on.

We recognise their continued connection to Country and that this connection can be seen through stories of place and cultural practices such as art, songs, dances, storytelling and caring for the natural and cultural landscape of the area.

We also recognise the continuing living culture of Aboriginal people, and the significance of Narrabri in that living culture. We recognise the contemporary stories of displacement and the cultural significance of Narrabri in the continued journey of self-determination in Australia.



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# Executive summary

## Background

The New South Wales (NSW) Government, through its introduction of the Special Activation Precincts (SAPs) has identified six distinctive areas throughout regional NSW to bring together planning and investment to stimulate economic growth across a range of industries including freight and logistics, manufacturing, waste management and recycling, energy generation and agricultural and food processing activities. The planning and creation of these areas is partially facilitated and funded through the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.

The establishment of SAPs is a joint NSW Government Agency initiative by the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW), Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and the Department of Regional NSW (RNSW) as part of the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW. DPE is responsible for preparing the planning framework whereas the Department of Regional NSW manages each precinct.

In November 2020, Narrabri was declared the sixth and final SAP investigation area, enabled by its strong reputation and location within Australia's highest productive grain region as well as its strong transportation linkages including existing road and rail connections and the future Inland Rail. To facilitate the planning within this precinct, DPE has engaged Cred Consulting to prepare a series of technical studies regarding community and social infrastructure within the Narrabri SAP investigation area.

It should be noted this social infrastructure report focuses on the needs and opportunities for existing and future social infrastructure within Narrabri Town Centre, the Lakeside Village, and Mount Kaputar Precinct. Therefore, its findings have more implications for the Town Centre Framework, which is a supporting document to the SAP land use Structure Plan.

## Narrabri current context

The Narrabri township is located within the Narrabri Shire local government area (LGA), 521km northwest of Sydney. As at the 2021 census, the population of Narrabri township was 6,898 persons with 16 per cent identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The Narrabri township lies at the junction of the Newell and Kamilaroi highways and has direct rail connection to the Port of Newcastle via the Walgett branch of the Main North line. Once completed, Narrabri will also have a direct connection to the new Inland Rail route which will connect Melbourne to Brisbane via new and upgraded track.

### Strategic context

Key themes that emerge from the review of over 24 global, national, regional and local policies that inform the social infrastructure needs and opportunities for Narrabri SAP include:

- Create an attractive town
- Improve public open space and recreation offer
- Improve community facilities and services
- Increase access to education and training opportunities, and
- Promote local arts and culture.

### Demographic context

In 2021, 6,898 people lived in the Narrabri township. In comparison to the LGA, the Narrabri township had:

- A higher proportion of First Nations population
- A similar proportion of people spoke a language other than English at home with other languages
- Common occupations in Narrabri were significantly different from the LGA. They included Professionals, Technicians and Trades Workers.
- People living in Narrabri township had a lower weekly median income \$1,402 in comparison to the LGA \$1,498
- More people in Narrabri traveled to work by car compared to the LGA, and
- Narrabri township had a slightly higher proportion of one parent families when compared to the LGA.



### **Stakeholder engagement findings**

Key social infrastructure needs and opportunities identified through stakeholder consultation undertaken with agencies including different teams within Council, Department of Education, NSW Emergency Services, and consultation with First Nations People include:

- Need for :
  - More and better community infrastructure for First Nations People
  - More things to do for young people
  - An educational precinct
  - Affordable small and medium hireable spaces
  - More child care spaces
  - More connected and shared pathways
  - More public amenities
  - Absorbing increased interim population through temporary classrooms
  - More community service organisations
- Opportunity to:
  - Relocate the Fire Station
  - Provide a regional recovery service in Narrabri
  - Create more inclusive recreation spaces
  - Strengthen cultural and community offer
  - Develop a sports precinct that doubles up as an evacuation centre
  - Increase public art across Narrabri
  - Develop more community representative communications

### **Social infrastructure supply and demand analysis**

An audit of social infrastructure and population-based benchmarking indicate Narrabri largely provides an adequate quantum of social infrastructure with some gaps in indoor recreation, hireable community spaces, child care services and First Nations focused facilities, as well as improving existing infrastructure such as parks, skate facilities, library, and connecting key destinations with shared pathways and recreational trails.

### **Social infrastructure opportunities**

Based on the findings from this report, through the refinement of options and discussions with stakeholders and at the EbD workshops, social infrastructure opportunities and recommendations to support the existing and future population in Narrabri are:

- Deliver the planned Tourism and Cultural Hub
- Deliver a First Nations Cultural Centre
- Deliver a First Nations Community Hub
- Develop an Educational Precinct - Integrate the library and TAFE and provide new training spaces and community spaces
- Advocate for a Regional Recovery Service
- Advocate for the provision of childcare spaces

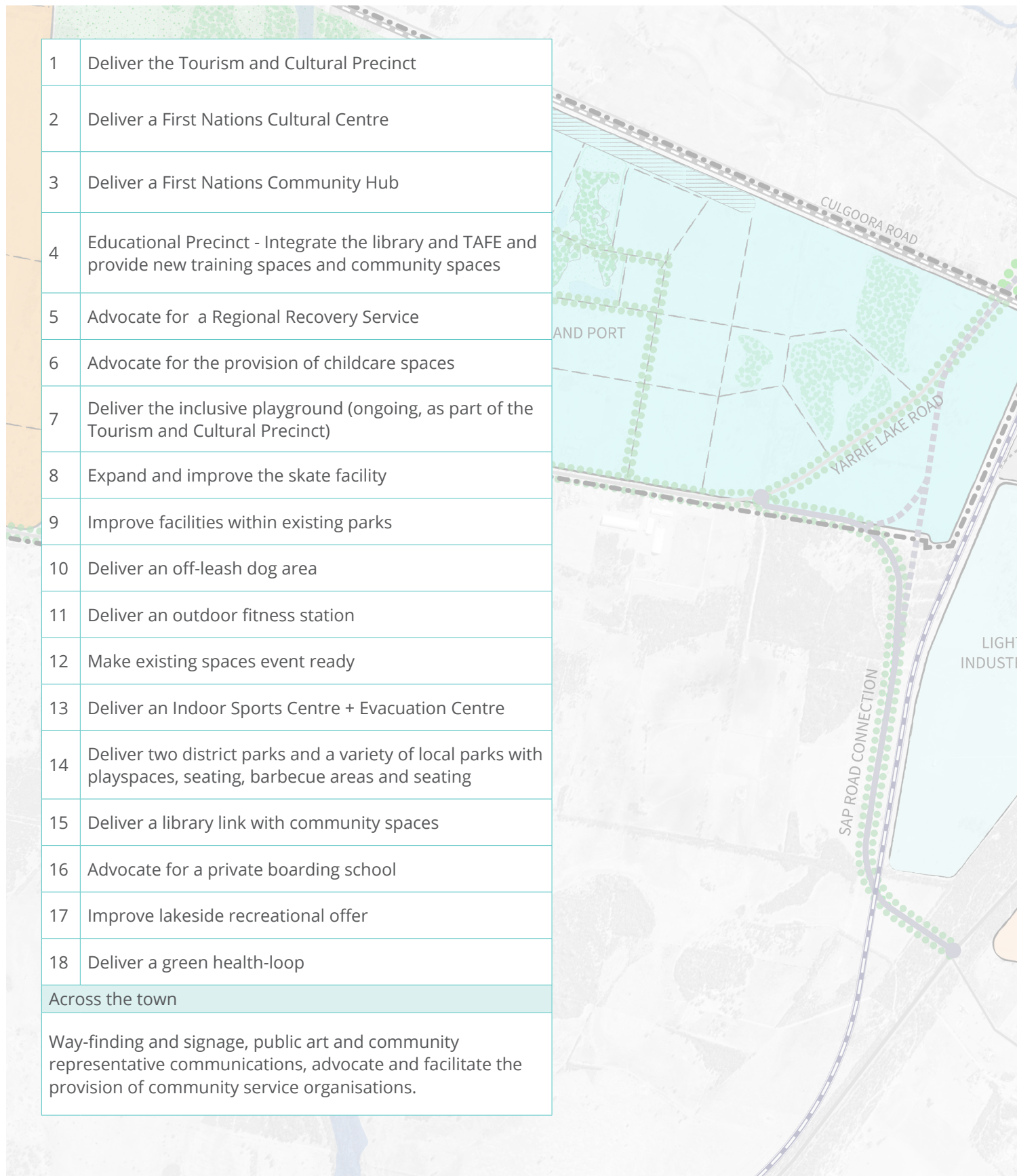
- Deliver the inclusive playground (ongoing, as part of the Tourism and Cultural Hub)
- Expand and improve the skate facility
- Improve facilities within parks
- Deliver an off-leash dog area
- Deliver an outdoor fitness station
- Make existing spaces event ready
- Deliver an Indoor Sports Centre + Evacuation Centre
- Deliver two district parks and a variety of local parks with playspaces, seating, barbecue areas and seating
- Deliver a library link with community spaces
- Advocate for a private boarding school
- Improve lakeside recreational offer
- Deliver a green health-loop
- Improve way-finding and signage, public art and community representative communications, and
- Advocate and facilitate the provision of community service organisations.

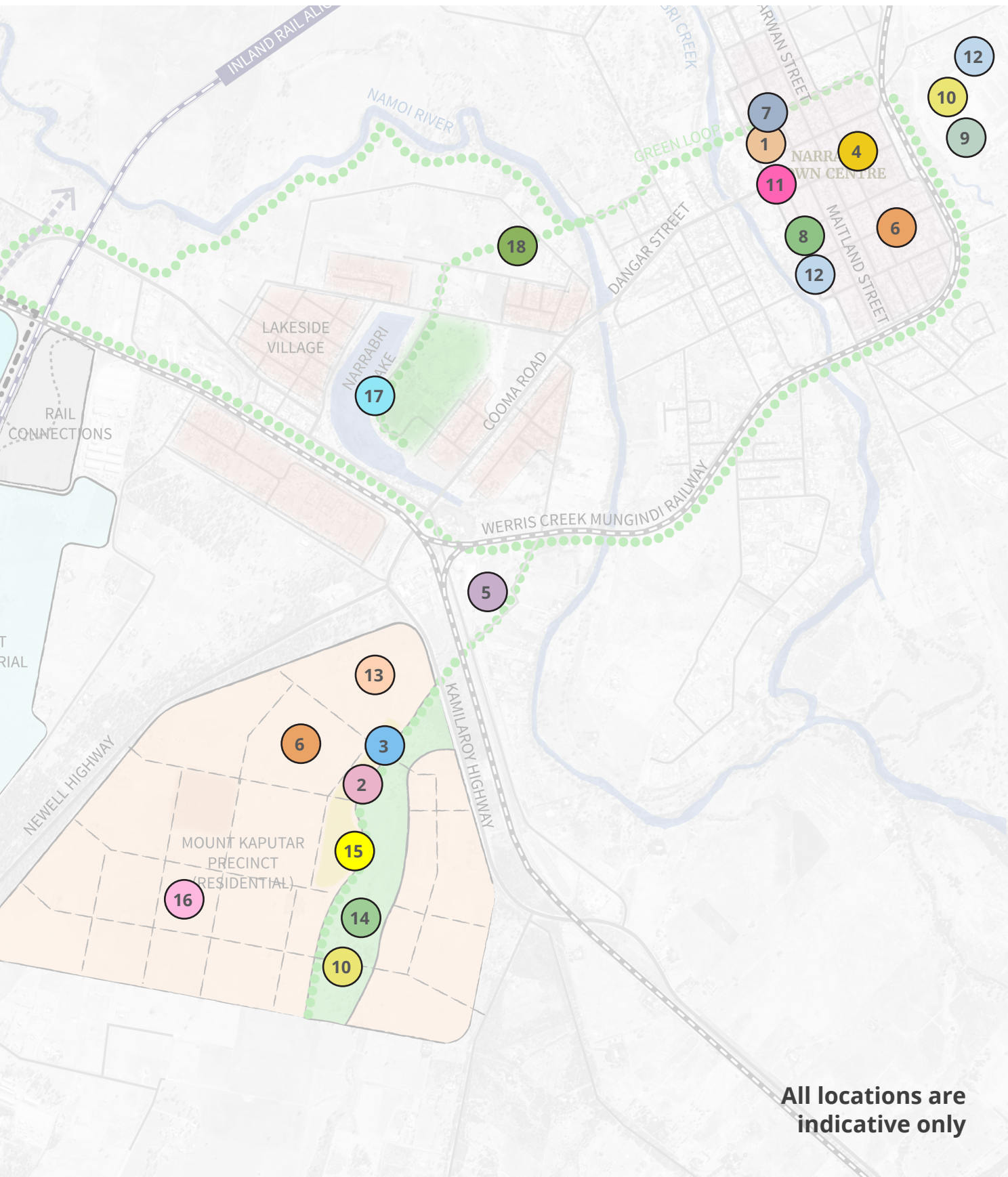
Figure A on the next page shows high-level and indicative locations for the above social infrastructure opportunities. Further site investigation and consultation with community would be required to inform next stages of planning and delivery of social infrastructure.

It is not advisable to build the new social infrastructure (built-form infrastructure) noted above on Narrabri's flood-prone land. Instead, it is recommended that the Mount Kaputar Precinct be used as it is a suitable location where social and community facilities can be situated alongside new homes on land that is not susceptible to flooding.

In addition, some social infrastructure opportunities proposed within the Narrabri Town such as integrating the library and TAFE will be challenging as the sites are flood-prone. Further investigations need to be undertaken to determine its viability.

Figure A - Social infrastructure opportunities for Narrabri (Basemap source: Narrabri SAP Structure Plan, Hatch Roberts Day)







# Technical Report

## 1. Introduction

### Background

The NSW Government, through its introduction of the SAPs has identified six distinctive areas throughout regional NSW to bring together planning and investment to stimulate economic growth across a range of industries including freight and logistics, manufacturing, waste management and recycling, energy generation and agricultural and food processing activities. The planning and creation of these areas is partially facilitated and funded through the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.

The establishment of SAPs is a joint NSW Government Agency initiative by the DRNSW, DPE and the RNSW as part of the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW. DPE is responsible for preparing the planning framework whereas the Department of Regional NSW manages each precinct.

In November 2020, Narrabri was declared the sixth and final SAP investigation area, enabled by its strong reputation and location within Australia's highest productive grain region as well as its strong transportation linkages including existing road and rail connections and the future Inland Rail. To facilitate the planning within this precinct DPE has engaged Cred Consulting to prepare a series of technical studies regarding community and social infrastructure within Narrabri SAP investigation area.

As part of the master planning process and to inform this technical study two EbD workshops were organised. A preliminary EbD was held on the 29th and 30th of March 2022 to develop three initial land use scenarios. Following an interdisciplinary assessment of the three scenarios, a final EbD workshop was held between 5th and 8th of September 2022 to study the interdisciplinary constraints of the three scenarios and identify and develop a preferred land use Structure Plan. This report assesses the land use Structure Plan from the final EbD workshop from a community and social infrastructure perspective.

### Methodology

The methodology applied to determine the social infrastructure needs and opportunities for the Narrabri SAP include:



Figure 1 - Cred Consulting social infrastructure assessment methodology

## About Narrabri SAP Structure Plan

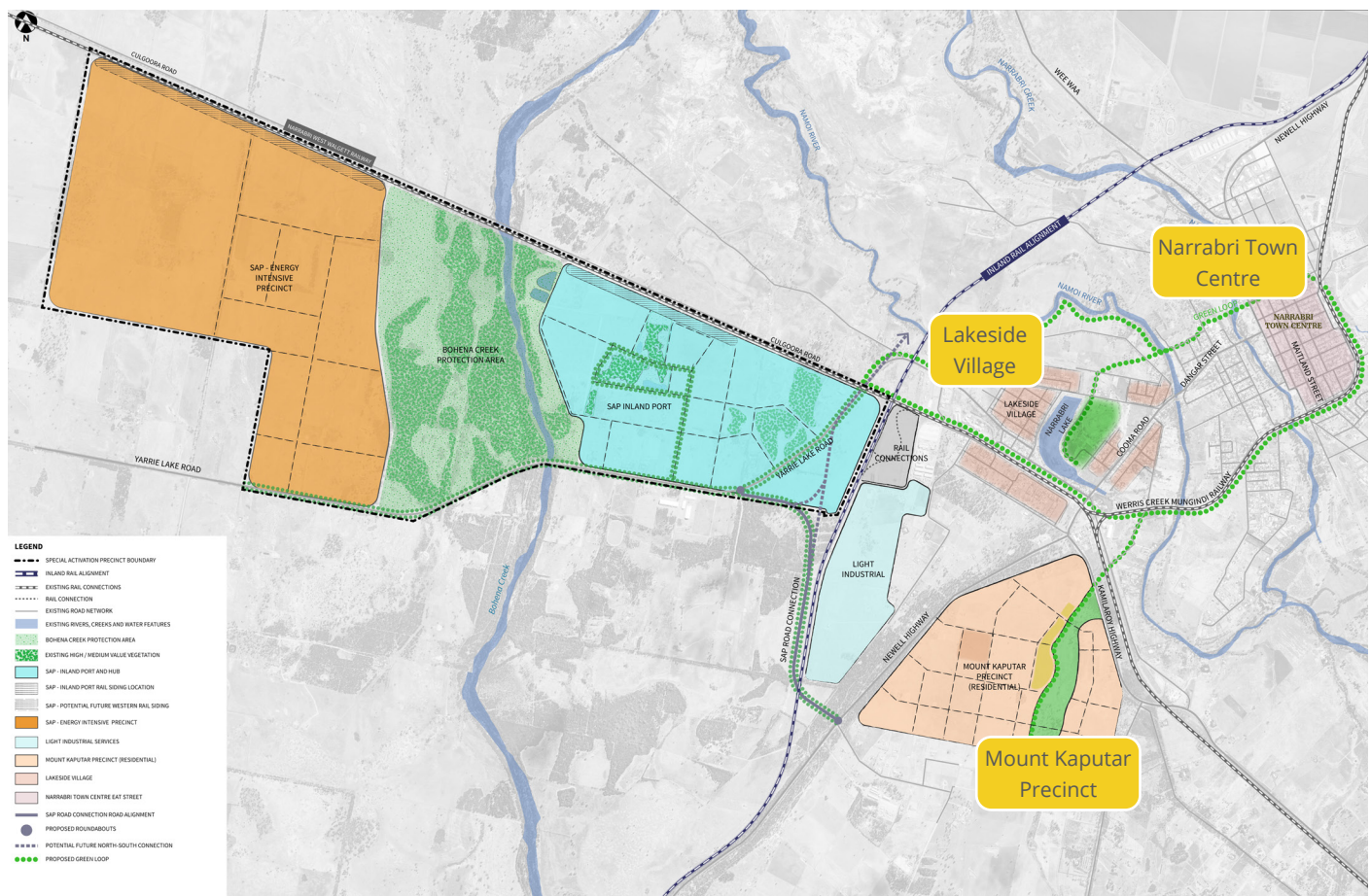
Narrabri township is located within the Narrabri Shire local government area (LGA), 521km northwest of Sydney. As of 2021 census, the population of Narrabri township was 6,898 persons with 16% identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Peoples.

The township lies at the junction of the Newell and Kamilaroi highways and has direct rail connection to the Port of Newcastle via the Walgett branch of the Main North line. Once completed, Narrabri will also have a

direct connection to the new Inland Rail route which will connect Melbourne to Brisbane via new and upgraded track.

It is located to the west of the existing township and incorporates two areas separated by an environmental buffer zone. This investigation area is being utilised as a basis for all technical studies, however, will not necessarily form the final SAP boundary which may change throughout the master planning process.

Figure 2 - Narrabri SAP Structure Plan Diagram (Source: Hatch Roberts Day)



### Scope of this report

As shown in the Figure above, the SAP boundary comprises of the SAP enterprise uses and an environmental buffer. The SAP is located in proximity of the Narrabri Town Centre, the Lakeside Village, and Mount Kaputar Precinct that will accommodate a majority of the future residential growth.

The scope of this social infrastructure report focuses on the needs and opportunities for existing and future social infrastructure within Narrabri Town Centre, the Lakeside Village, and Mount Kaputar Precinct. Therefore, its findings have more implications for the Town Centre Framework, which is a supporting document to the SAP Structure Plan.

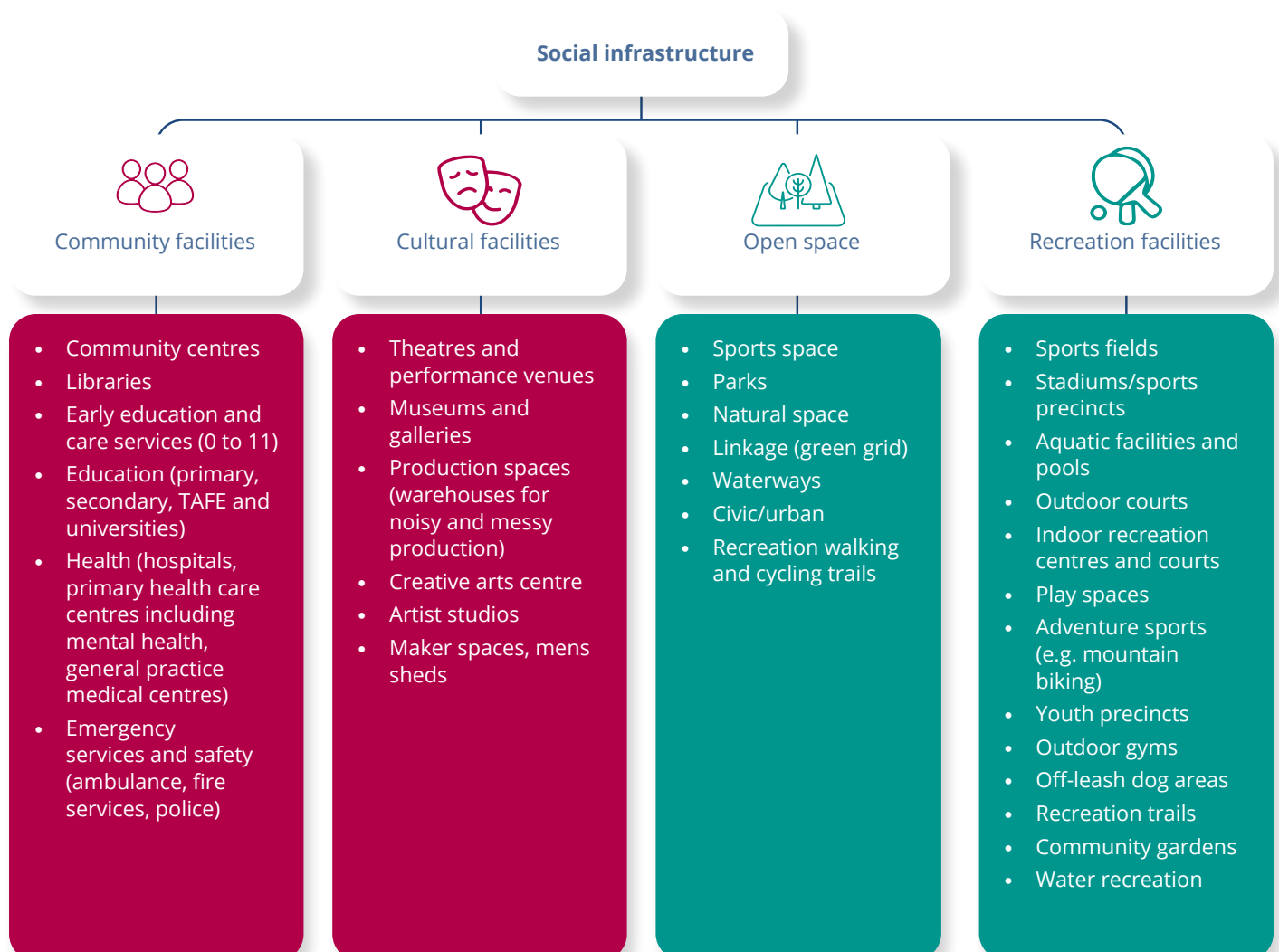
## 2. Defining social infrastructure

Infrastructure Australia defines social infrastructure as:

*“Social infrastructure is the facilities, spaces, services and networks that support the quality of life and wellbeing of our communities. It helps us to be happy, safe and healthy, to learn, and to enjoy life. The network of social infrastructure contributes to social identity, inclusion and cohesion and is used by all Australians at some point in their lives, often on a daily basis.”*

Successful social infrastructure relies on the availability of facilities and spaces for the services, programs and activities that are held there. It includes both the facilities or physical structure where social, cultural and recreational services, programs and activities are delivered or operate (‘Hard Infrastructure’) and the services and programs that are delivered (‘Soft Infrastructure’). Both depend on each other and play a role in creating and sustaining community life, build our economy, and keep us connected and healthy.

This report defines social infrastructure as the assets or physical spaces where people can participate in social, recreational and cultural life. Definitions of social infrastructure often refer to the role it has in contributing to people’s quality of life and providing the ‘glue that binds communities together’. Social infrastructure is an umbrella term that includes community facilities, cultural facilities, open space and recreation facilities. An outline of what is considered to be ‘social infrastructure’ in this report is detailed below.





## 2.1. Why is social infrastructure important?



### Social benefits

Community facilities such as libraries, community centres, arts and cultural centres and other community facilities deliver significant social outcomes to individuals and groups and are the places where people can meet (formally and informally), participate in community programs, learn, attend community events, and create social capital. The availability of social infrastructure, both public and privately owned, enables the presence of social supports and essential community and cultural services that are necessary to help people thrive.

Open space and recreation facilities support participation in sport and recreation which also reduces the risk of health conditions and improves social and emotional health and wellbeing. Working and living close to green space is shown to have positive impacts on mental health. Access to green space is linked to increased physical activity, relaxation, social interaction, stress reduction and mental health benefits across all ages, socio-economic groups and genders. However, it is the quality and variety of green space that is important, rather than the number of spaces.



### Sustainability and resilience benefits

Social infrastructure builds socially sustainable and resilient communities, whether a local neighbourhood, whole LGA or a working precinct. It encourages people to come together, share resources, access services, and meet each-other and, builds cohesion and capacity - the foundations of resilience. Access to social infrastructure helps to build healthy, strong and empowered communities that have more resources and support to draw on when dealing with chronic stresses and stresses.

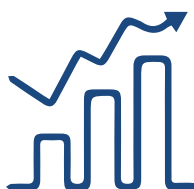
Social and cultural programs deliver multiple benefits, which can be understood in terms of social, cultural and economic terms, not only for the precinct but the wider Narrabri Shire community. Through the provision of quality social infrastructure, social networks can be established which in turns increases the feeling of welcome, belonging, safety and trust which are the fundamentals of social capital. Feelings of trust in a community are an established measure of social capital, a key social indicator used internationally.



### Liveability and place benefits

Liveable places are those that have great access to social infrastructure that enables life-long learning and creative expression; creates healthier communities; and bridges social and cultural networks and supports. Liveable places deliver higher rates of wellbeing and responding improved quality of life for workers and residents. Social infrastructure also enables 'place making,' creating spaces for people to meet, connect and participate in meaningful activities. Social infrastructure strengthens local and place identity and character and contribute to the local identity. Local stories and culture can be ingrained in the building fabric to assist in fostering community identity and ownership.

The co-location of varied community facilities and open and social spaces in one place can support social cohesion and appreciation of diversity through active mixing of people and groups, across the generational, cultural, income and education spectrum. In employment areas they have a key role as 'restorative spaces', 'gathering spaces' and 'break-out spaces'.



### Productivity and economy benefits

Investment in social infrastructure also has economic benefits with libraries, work hubs, subsidised office spaces, early education and care (childcare) and artists studios providing spaces to learn, engage in or access the workforce and activating local economies.

Providing affordable start up, research and development and prototyping spaces encouraging the growth of innovation and provide employment opportunities for local residents that will in turn support the growth of the local economy and the increase reputation as a innovative, forward thinking precinct

Social infrastructure can also strengthen precinct distinctiveness and creativity in the public domain and support sector sustainability to increase access and create opportunities in new markets.

## 2.2. Social infrastructure participation trends

### Public open space and recreation



#### Popularity of walking on the rise

Activities done on paths and trails are popular such as walking, bush walking and running is the top recreation activity.



#### Individualisation of sports + fitness

Increasing individualised sport and fitness activities, with increasing participation in aerobics, running, walking and gym membership. People are fitting fitness activities into their busy lives rather than committing to regular organised sport.



#### Increasing demand for indoor recreation

Demand for indoor recreation is increasing for a number of reasons. One of those is increasing multi cultural communities and their sporting preferences that often can be catered for in indoor recreation facilities (e.g. basketball, futsal). Other reasons include climate comfort, safety at night and co-location with other facilities.



#### Increasingly time poor

People are generally spending less time recreating, but they are expecting more from their physical activity.



#### Casualisation of sports and recreation

Personal choice: Popular recreation activities include walking, going to a play space, relaxing in parks and casual ball sports – all activities performed solo or in small social groups.



#### Increasing participation of women and girls

Women and girls' decisions to engage and participate in sport, active recreation and physical activity is heavily influenced by a complex value system which fluctuates according to age and the life stage. Against the trends of participation, the number of women participating formal sports, particularly all football codes, is increasing.



#### Impact of climate on outdoor recreation

Climate change and increased days of extreme weather conditions is also driving up demand for indoor recreation facilities. On hot days, the use of outdoor sport and recreation facilities is limited. Whereas indoor facilities are often air conditioned, and can still support participation in sports and recreation regardless of weather (heat and rain).



#### Adventure sports

'Extreme' lifestyle, adventure and alternative sports are becoming more mainstream, particularly with younger generations. Examples include hiking, skateboarding, BMX and rock-climbing.



#### New business models for sports associations

Market pressures and new business models - Market forces are likely to exert greater pressure on sport, with loosely organised community sports associations replaced by organisations with corporate structures and more formal governance systems.



#### Accessible recreation

Universal access is an increasingly important issue, so everyone regardless of age, cultural background or physical ability can collectively enjoy activities. Australia has an ageing population. Providing recreation and fitness opportunities that are attractive and safe for older people will become increasingly important.



#### Cultural diversification

Recreational activities range from mountain biking to Tai Chi, due to a diversifying population with unique hobbies and interests.

## National participation trends

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) AusPlay survey tracks the recreation activities (both sport and non-sport physical activities) Australians participate in.

- A majority of Australians (55%) participate in sport or other physical activities at least 3 times a week. The most popular physical recreation activities were recreational walking, fitness/gym, swimming, and athletics
- Over the age of 18, sporting clubs are not the main way Australians participate in physical activity. Of the 89% of adults that participate in physical activity, 20% participate in sport based activity only, 31% in non-sport related physical activity and 38% in both
- Participation declines as age increases
- The major motivation for participation in physical activities is for physical health and fitness, followed by fun and enjoyment, and social reasons, and
- Not enough time, and poor health or injury, are the main barriers to participation.

## Local participation trends

The Narrabri Shire Sport Recreation and Open Space Plan 2017-2032 notes that:

- Participation trends in organised sport in Narrabri Shire are difficult to ascertain. The limited club survey responses indicate many sports enjoying growth in junior participation while senior participation results are mixed. The one clear trend is that in the smaller towns and villages where fewer sporting opportunities are available, participation in formal sport decreases.
- The most popular sports participated in by the students interviewed at school visits were:
  - football and netball (for Narrabri residents only) for girls
  - football and rugby league for boys
- Areas such as local footpaths, swimming pool, Narrabri Lake and local roads were popular places to recreate
- Walking, swimming (for recreation not club) and playing in the park are the most popular activities to participate in
- Only 26% participation noted, cycling (for recreation) was not a well-supported activity. This finding is in contrast to state and national level results that show cycling as one of the highest participation activities (behind only walking, fitness/gym, running and swimming)
- Water-based activities were popular, with swimming (for recreation not club), fishing and canoe/kayaking filling three of the top seven responses
- Natural setting was a highly valued aspect of open space and improved facilities along the river, creek and/or lake was highlighted as the highest priority for Council, and
- Despite there being an abundance of open space around the Shire, the youth felt that there was a lack of variety of play opportunities, with many of the parks only catering for toddlers. The lack of activities for youth and the need for new/upgraded playgrounds was also identified as the highest priority for Council.



Figure 3 - Namoi River (source: Destination NSW)



## Community participation trends

The way that people participate in community and cultural activities has changed over time, and this influences use of communal spaces and the subsequent need for community assets.

While there is no data specifically on community participation, through volunteering participation and demand for community spaces, the following trends have been identified:



There is increasingly a demand for incidental volunteering opportunities as opposed to ongoing and regular volunteering.



People are increasingly interested in activities and programs that occur after work and on weekends.



People are looking for opportunities to participate in programs where they can connect socially, build new relationships and contribute to their community.



There is increasing interest in programs and services that support capacity building, DIY and sustainability outcomes as demonstrated by the increasing number of maker spaces.



People are increasingly interested in accessing and borrowing new technologies, particularly the ones that people can't afford to buy.



People want to participate in community activities outside of the home, particularly for those of who live by themselves to reduce the impacts of social isolation.

## Cultural participation trends<sup>1</sup>

Creativity connects us and is an important ingredient to bringing life into our regions, culture and economy and creates opportunities for connect, shared story telling and experiences for our communities contributing to building a strong sense of belonging and identity.

The Australia Council for the Arts regularly conducts research into Australians' engagement with arts and creativity in their daily lives, and provides insight into cultural participation and attendance trends as well as how people value the arts. Research shows that the recognition importance of arts and culture is significantly cultural participation and attendance across Australia is increasing.

The results from the 'Creating Our Future: Results of the National Arts Participation Survey 2019' indicates that significantly more Australians now recognise the range of positive impacts of arts and creativity in our lives and communities. In 2019, 84% of Australians acknowledged positive impacts, up from 75% in 2016.

The findings from the 2019 Survey show that the majority of Australians engage with the arts in some way or another, and this is equally true for people living in regional Australia. In 2019:

- Nearly two in three (64%) regional Australians had attended a live art form such as music, theatre, dance, festivals or First Nations arts; and
- Over one in four (26%) regional Australians participated in visual arts and craft. ( This was higher than Metropolitan residents at 24%).

First Nations arts are central to understanding who we are as Australians. More Australians now agree First Nations arts are an important part of Australia's culture (75%, up from 70% in 2016). However, only half of Australians believe First Nations arts are well represented (51%, up from 48% in 2016), showing there is still work to be done to build the representation and profile of First Nations arts in Australia.

Creative participation can take many forms – from artistic photography to playing an instrument; and from singing in a community choir or taking a community arts class, to more professional forms of arts creation.

The proportion of Australians who creatively participate in the arts (45%) has increased by 13 percent since 2016. This includes increased participation in visual arts and craft, music, creative writing, dance and theatre. Creative participation is particularly strong among young people, parents of children under 16 years, First Nations respondents, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) respondents and respondents with disability.

1. Australia Council for the Arts 2020 'Creating Our Future Report: National Arts Participation Survey 2019 (based on a nationally representative sample of 8,928 Australians).

### 3. Strategic context

Over 24 global, national, regional and local policies and strategies were reviewed to identify drivers, themes and opportunities relating to social infrastructure for the Narrabri SAP Structure Plan.

The key themes that emerge from the review of the policies and strategies that inform the social infrastructure needs and opportunities for Narrabri SAP include:

#### **Create an attractive town**

There is a strong strategic focus to position regional areas, including Narrabri, as attractive and welcoming places to live and work.

Regional strategies highlight the need to enhance the appeal and liveability of the Region through ongoing improvements to the presentation of the towns and villages and improving and expanding the Region's sporting, recreational and cultural facilities to retain residents and attract workers. Relevant directions for Narrabri township include:

- Provide attractive and welcoming CBD areas that facilitate social interaction
- Have access to at least one quality meeting place to facilitate social gathering
- Improve social and public amenity
- Make all spaces universally accessible

#### **Improve public open space and recreation offer**

There is a strong strategic focus to encourage recreational opportunities and increase participation in sport across a broad cross-section of the community. Priorities areas for the Narrabri township include:

- Improve parks with lighting and other amenities
- Develop a walking and cycling loop
- Develop an indoor sports facilities
- Increase water recreation opportunities

#### **Improve community facilities and services**

Across local and regional strategies, there is a strong focus towards designing community spaces that celebrate local identities and foster community connectedness. Relevant directions for Narrabri township include:

- Improve library services
- Support and encourage health and wellbeing programs and services to improve resident lifestyles
- Increase child and aged care supply
- Provide facilities and services for young people
- Strengthen community resilience through collaboration and capacity building

#### **Increase access to education and training opportunities**

Across all levels of government, strategies highlight the need to address skills gaps in regional areas, including the Narrabri Shire.

In particular, there is a strong focus on supporting young people in regional areas to ensure they have access to high quality education, meaningful work and feel part of inclusive communities.

There is a need to provide high quality tertiary education to mitigate the need for regional residents to relocate, and to advocate for and support diverse education and personal development opportunities to ensure available skills meet local demand.

#### **Promote local arts and culture**

Local and regional strategies acknowledge that a strong arts and cultural sector can lead to community and economic development. There is increasing focus to expand on arts and culture in regional areas, including the Narrabri Shire.

Council recognise that access to arts and cultural activities can foster a strong community identity, improve community wellbeing, and assist in protecting and preserving heritage and cultural assets.

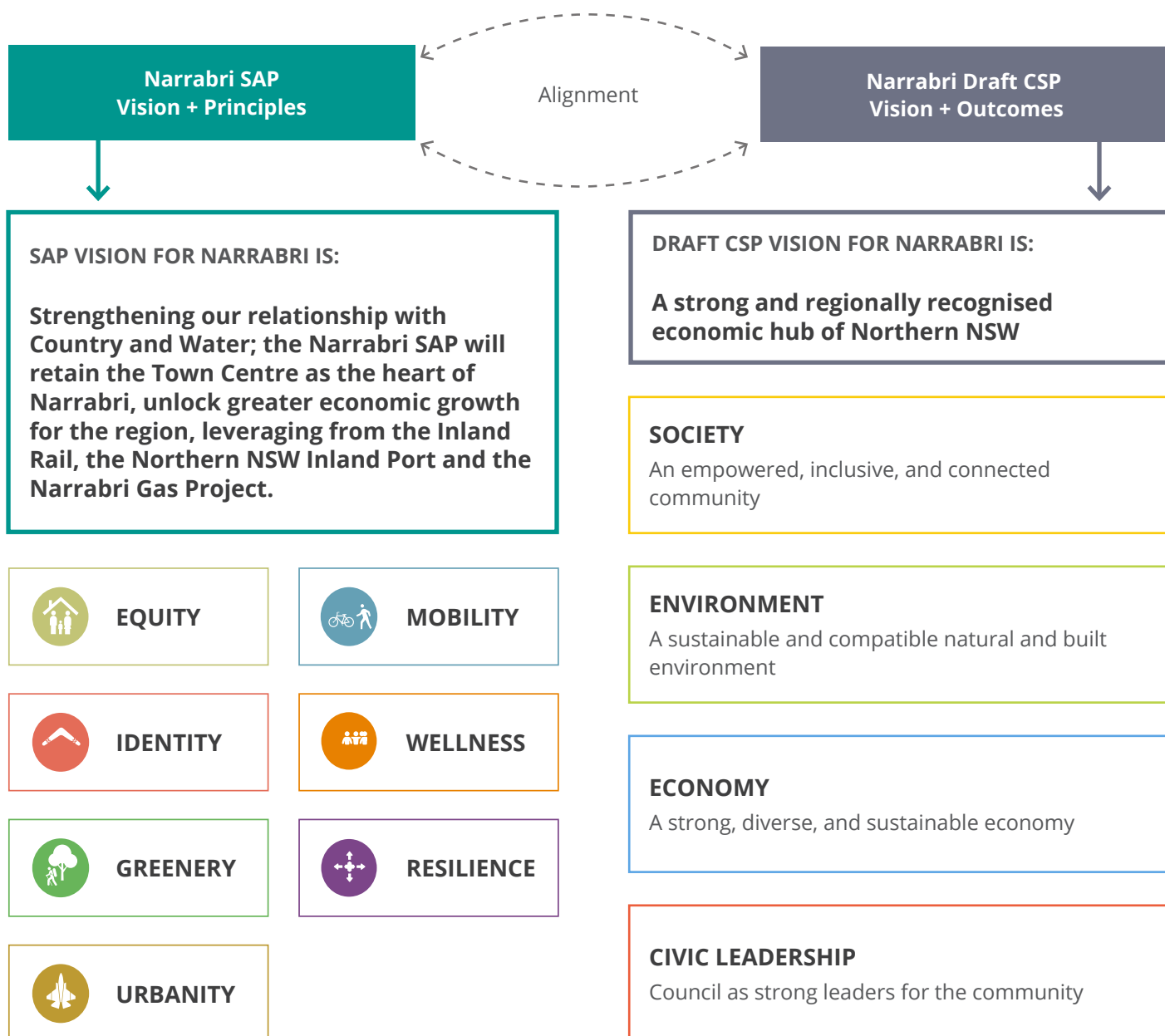
Council also highlight that arts and cultural activities can diversify and enhance the attraction, activity and experience base of the Narrabri Shire for the benefit of both residents and visitors. Relevant directions for Narrabri township include:

- Integrate arts and culture into public spaces and public domain
- Develop contemporary arts space / gallery
- Improve access to spaces for community participation in culture

*For more details, please refer to Appendix 8.2*

### 3.1. Alignment with the community's priorities

Narrabri Shire LGA's Draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2032 was published for public exhibition on 26 April 2022. It outlines the community's vision and key outcomes for Narrabri. In order for the SAP Structure Plan and associated Town Centre Framework to deliver quality social outcomes, it is vital they strategically align and respond to the local community's priorities as outlined in the Draft CSP.





## 4. Demographic context

### 4.1. Current population

In order to plan for and deliver social infrastructure in our areas, we need to understand our community, how it is growing and changing, and what are our unique needs. By assessing current and future trends around how we live, we are better equipped to deliver services that will enhance social cohesion, inclusiveness and community harmony. This section provides a desktop demographic analysis using population data sourced from the Australian Bureaus of Statistics and forecast data compiled by Atlas Urban Economics.

While the scope of the SAP is focused on development within the Narrabri township, it is important to note that people living in larger towns within the LGA such as Wee Waa and Boggabri also use the social infrastructure in Narrabri. In order to plan for social infrastructure that caters to the wider LGA, we need to understand the demographic characteristics of all three towns.

#### Narrabri Shire LGA

In 2021, the LGA had a population of 12,703, with 6,898 people residing in the town of Narrabri itself.

#### A high First Nations population

In 2021, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people made up 15% of the population, which is significantly higher than NSW 3% and Australia 3%.

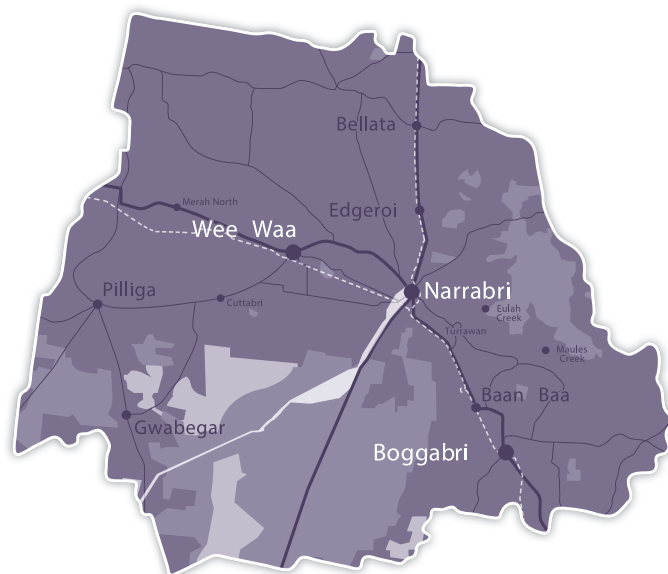
#### A younger and aging population

The population for the LGA as at the 2021 Census shows both a younger and ageing population compared to NSW and Australia.

The median age of people in the LGA was 40 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 20% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 19% of the population.

#### Lower levels of tertiary education

Of people aged 15 and over in the LGA, the highest proportion of people 18% had completed Year 10 and 12% had completed Year 12 as their highest level of educational attainment. 20% had completed a Certificate III or IV and 6% had completed an Advanced Diploma or Diploma.



#### A significantly higher proportion of people born in Australia

Within the LGA, 84% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were England 0.7%, New Zealand 0.6%, Philippines 0.5%, United States of America 0.2% and Germany 0.2%. The most common ancestries in the LGA were Australian 47%, English 36%, Australian Aboriginal 13%, Irish 10% and Scottish 8%.

#### Lower levels of languages other than English

In the LGA, 87% of people only spoke English at home. Other languages spoken at home included Mandarin 0.2%, Tagalog 0.2%, Nepali 0.2%, Sinhalese 0.2% and Filipino 0.2%.

#### Higher levels of employment

In the LGA in 2021, 64% were employed full time, 26% were employed part-time and 4% were unemployed, and this is fairly similar to the rest of the population in NSW and Australia. However, a higher proportion, 48% of people worked 40 hours or more per week when compared to NSW 38%.

The most common occupations in the LGA included Managers 17%, Machinery Operators and Drivers 15%, Professionals 13.5%, Technicians and Trades Workers 13.2% and Labourers 12%.

#### Lower median weekly household income

The median weekly household income in the LGA was \$1,498, which was lower than NSW at \$1,829.

#### Most people travel to work by car

In 2021, the most common methods of travel to work for employed people were: Car 70%, Worked at home 11% and Walked only 4%.

### **Lower rates of internet connection**

67% of households had at least one person access the internet from the dwelling. This is lower when compared to NSW 82% and Australia 83%.

### **Higher proportion of couples without children**

Of the families in the LGA, 44% were couple families with children, 39% were couple families without children and 16% were one parent families. 22% of single parents were male and 78% were female.

### **More separate houses**

Of occupied private dwellings in the LGA, 90% were separate houses, 8% were semi-detached, row or terrace houses, townhouses etc, 0.7% were flat or apartments and 0.7% were other dwellings.

## **Narrabri**

In 2021, 6,898 people in lived in the Narrabri township. In comparison to the LGA, the Narrabri township had:

- A higher proportion of First Nations population 18%
- A similar proportion of people spoke a language other than English at home with other languages including Mandarin 0.5%, Nepali 0.4%, Tagalog 0.4%, Filipino 0.4% and Sinhalese 0.2%
- Common occupations in Narrabri were significantly different from the LGA. They included Professionals 16%, Technicians and Trades Workers 15%. Machinery Operators and Drivers 14%, Labourers 12% and Community and Personal Service Workers 11%
- People living in Narrabri township had a lower weekly median income \$1,402 in comparison to the LGA \$1,498
- More people in Narrabri 75% travelled to work by car compared to the LGA 70%
- Narrabri township had a slightly higher proportion of one parent families 21% when compared to the LGA 16%, and
- Narrabri had more flat and apartments 1% compared to the LGA 0.7%.

## **Wee Waa**

In the 2021, 1,571 people lived in the Wee Waa township. In comparison to the LGA, the Wee Waa township had:

- A much higher proportion of First Nations population 23%
- A slightly higher proportion of 0 - 14 year olds 23%
- People who were born in other countries - 82% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were England 1%, New Zealand 0.6%, Korea 0.3%, United States of America 0.3% and Ireland 0.2%
- A similar proportion of people who speak only English at home 86%. Other languages spoken at home

included Estonian 0.4%, Filipino 0.3%, Korean 0.3%, Arabic 0.2% and Cantonese 0.2%

- A lower proportion of people who were employed full-time 60%
- Common occupations in Wee Waa township were significantly different from the LGA. They included Machinery Operators and Drivers 16%, Trades Workers 15%, Professionals 14%, Community and Personal Service Workers 13% and Labourers 13%.
- Lower median weekly income at \$1,200
- More people in Wee Waa 76% travelled to work by car compared to the LGA 70%, and
- Lesser proportion of occupied private dwellings in Wee Waa consisted on flats and apartments 0.5% compared to the LGA 0.7%.

## **Boggabri**

In 2021, 885 people in lived in the Boggabri township. In comparison to the LGA, the Boggabri township had:

- A similar proportion of First Nations population 14%
- A much higher proportion of older population. People aged 65 years and over made up 25% of the population when compared to the LGA 19%
- People who were born in other countries - 80% of people were born in Australia. The most common countries of birth were Fiji 0.6%, England 0.6%, Taiwan 0.5%, New Zealand 0.3% and Northern Ireland 0.3%.
- People who spoke other languages other than English at home. Other languages spoken at home were Fijian Hindustani 0.6%, Mandarin 0.5%, Sinhalese 0.3%, Indonesian 0.3% and Korean 0.3%
- Common occupations in Boggabri township were significantly different from the LGA. They included Machinery Operators and Drivers 31%, Labourers 19%, Technicians and Trades Workers 12%, Community and Personal Service Workers 12% and Managers 8%
- Lower median weekly income at \$1,335
- A higher proportion of people in Boggabri 67% travelled to work by car compared to the LGA 65%
- A higher proportion of one parent families 18%. 20% of single parents were male and 86% were female, and
- Lesser proportion of occupied private dwellings in Wee Waa consisted on flats and apartments 0% compared to the LGA 0.7%.

## 4.2. Forecast population

Demographic forecasting undertaken by Atlas Urban Economics outlines the following population forecasts for the Narrabri Shire LGA. As shown below, there are three growth scenarios:

- A baseline population forecast
- Aspirational Growth Scenario (0.5% p.a. post-2030)
- Aspirational Growth Scenario (1.0% p.a. post-2030)

The three growth scenario numbers have been used to calculate future benchmark demand for social infrastructure in the following chapters.

Table 1 - Forecast population for the Narrabri Shire LGA

Scenario	2021	2031	2041	Population increase from 2021 to 2041
Baseline Alternate Population Estimates	13,019	15,100	14,531	+ 1,513
Aspirational Growth Scenario (0.5% p.a. post-2030)	13,019	15,218	15,996	+ 2,977
Aspirational Growth Scenario (1.0% p.a. post-2030)	13,019	15,293	16,893	+ 3,875

Figure 4 - Interactive spaces attract, engage and retain talent in a community  
(Source: Makerspaces)





## 5. Stakeholder engagement findings

This section summarises findings from stakeholder interviews and discussions conducted to inform social infrastructure needs for Narrabri.

Stakeholder consultation was undertaken with key agencies including different teams within Council, Department of Education, NSW Emergency Services, and this report draws on findings from consultation with First Nations People to inform the social infrastructure needs for Narrabri. Key learnings include:

### *Need for more and better community infrastructure for First Nations People*

Murawin Consulting conducted a workshop with local First Nations People as part of the Preliminary EbD in Narrabri. During the two-day Preliminary EbD, there were several discussions around how to improve lived experiences for the First Nations People living and working in Narrabri now and in the future. In addition, following the Final EbD, a collaborative discussion was undertaken with Murawin and Djinjama to further unpack social infrastructure needs for the First Nations Community. Relevant findings for social infrastructure include:

- A strong need for Aboriginal health care in Narrabri. Anecdotal evidence indicated that several members of the local Gamilaroi community have experienced culturally inappropriate health services, and therefore, tend to travel approximately more than four hours to receive appropriate care services
- A need for a one-stop community hub for community activities and services
- A need for a cultural gathering place or knowledge centre where First Nations people feel comfortable and make it their own
- A need for improved awareness of First Nations stories and culture
- A need to provide education services that help train young people from Aboriginal communities and aid in retaining young people in Narrabri, and
- The strong need for First Nations focused community service organisations who will help bridge the equity gap between the communities, and increase access to community infrastructure and services for the Gamilaroi People.

### *Needs for more things to do for young people*

There is a strong need for more things to do for young people in Narrabri. Anecdotal evidence from community members indicated that activities currently available for young people are restricted to sports. They also noted that young people leave Narrabri to go to the bigger towns to look for a variety of jobs and better housing

options. This, coupled with the lack of tertiary education options limits training opportunities for young people, who in turn don't take up jobs available within Narrabri due to their limited skillset or lack of confidence.

### *Opportunity to relocate the Fire Station*

NSW Fire Services have advised that the net increase of ~1,000 to 2,000 people will not warrant the need for additional fire stations in Narrabri and the existing service is well-positioned to cater to this small increase. However, they noted that complementary fire services should be provided for within incoming industries to service their staff and workers during the construction period.

They noted that the existing Fire Station is over 100 years old and is deteriorating; it is also land-locked with limited scope to expand or increase fire services; it lacks proper amenities for women which in turn limits who can be stationed on-site.

Accounting for the above reasons, NSW Fire Service highlighted that there is an opportunity to relocate and expand the existing Fire Station in Narrabri to include a bigger footprint, a heavy hazmat truck, training area, and proper amenities for all. They highlighted that potential site for this could be at the intersection of Newell Hwy and Kamilaroi Hwy.

### *Opportunity to provide a regional recovery service in Narrabri*

NSW Fire Services spoke about accidents on highways involving tipped-over trucks that mandate specialty recovery services to arrive from Sydney to manage the hazardous recovery procedures. They noted that accidents such as this result in the closure of highway routes for three to four days and affect everyday life and impact the economy of small regional towns.

In order to shorten recovery time, they highlighted the opportunity to provide a recovery service in Narrabri that could cater to the North Coast, Hunter, New England North West, and Central West and Orana regions. This would also provide new job opportunities in the region.

In addition, as a result of the SAP, more industries would move into Narrabri which would mean more trucks would go in and out of the town. This further warrants an investigation for the need for a specialty recovery service in Narrabri.

### *Need for more inclusive recreation spaces*

An interview with Council staff highlighted that there is an increasing need to provide more inclusive recreation spaces in Narrabri which would not only benefit people

with disabilities but also help children, old people, parents using prams, and overall encourage people to spend more time outdoors.

The need for accessible pedestrian paths that are well-lit during the day and night. Council's inclusive playground that is under construction near The Crossing Theatre is one of many first steps towards making a Narrabri a welcoming place for people with all abilities.

### ***A strengthened cultural and community offer***

Council is planning a Tourism and Cultural Hub as an extension to The Crossing Theatre and the existing Tourism Information Centre. There is an opportunity to leverage the Hub to strengthen the community and cultural offer.

### ***A sports precinct that doubles up as an evacuation centre***

Council is in the early stages of planning a sports precinct at Dangar Park that currently includes a rugby field, multipurpose outdoor courts and tennis courts. The future sports precinct is likely to include an indoor sports centre, a PCYC in close proximity to the tennis courts, new grandstands, and new change rooms.

However, further discussions at the Final EbD highlighted the need for Dangar Park to be preserved as one of the last remaining traditional burial grounds, and a potential new location for the sports precinct was identified in the new Mount Kaputar Precinct.

### ***An educational precinct***

There is a strong need for an educational precinct within Narrabri that can potentially co-locate the Public Library, the TAFE, providing new training areas, provide an outreach area for nearby universities and be in close proximity to the public schools. This precinct can be a draw-card for children and young people to learn and grow together.

### ***Need for affordable small and medium hireable spaces***

Interviews with Council staff highlighted that there is a gap in affordable small and medium hireable spaces in Narrabri. Opportunities exist to expand the community hireable space in the swimming pool, provide more spaces within the future cultural and tourism hub, and future library. However, it should be noted the private organisation, The Exchange, and the RSL, golf club, bowling club and a majority of the local hotels have spaces that can be hired by the community.

### ***Need for child care spaces***

Discussions at the Preliminary and Final EbD indicated that there is a shortfall of childcare places in Narrabri. There are ten existing child care centres in Narrabri and of that, four currently have limited vacancies, which cannot support future population growth. This will inhibit young families from moving to Narrabri. In addition, the cost of child care for Narrabri averages at \$90 per day (as per careforkids.com.au), which would equate to \$450 per week. Considering that the median weekly income of a family living in Narrabri is \$1,498 (2021 ABS stats), spending nearly a third of their income on childcare is prohibitive. This reinforces the need for affordable childcare options in Narrabri.

### ***Possibility for increased interim population to be absorbed through temporary classrooms***

The stakeholder interview with Department of Education and formal advice from them indicated that enrolment demand of the town of Narrabri is met through Narrabri Public School, Narrabri West Public School and Narrabri High School. There is also one non-government school – St Francis Xavier's Primary School.

In 2022, there are 594 primary students and 551 secondary students enrolled across the three government schools. This represents utilisation of around 86% of the permanent primary level accommodation and around 84% of the permanent secondary level accommodation. Narrabri Public School has a site area of 1.8 hectares, Narrabri West Public School 3.3 hectares and Narrabri High School 7.0 hectares. The major part of Narrabri town can be affected by flooding including all schools in the area, with the exception of some areas of Narrabri West. There are also government schools at Bellata around 53km to the north (15 students), Maules Creek around 50km to the south-east (5 students) and Wee Waa around 35km to the north-west (84 primary and 130 secondary enrolments). Furthermore, the Namoi Valley Christian School in Wee Waa, which currently has 73 enrolled students, is planning to expand its infrastructure to accommodate students up to Year 10.

To plan for schools, the Department of Education considers a range of factors including long-term trends in population, the likely uptake of new housing by those with school aged children, the ratio of government and non-government school attendance and the size and location of existing schools. As a first preference and where appropriate, the Department of Education will optimise use of existing assets, including responses of realigning school intake areas to redistribute demand and use of temporary classrooms.

### *Need for shared pathways*

Stakeholder interviews with Council highlighted that the community (through the CSP engagement) expressed a strong desire for more shared pathway across Narrabri. Priority connections included Town Centre to West Lake; circuit around West Lake; Narrabri Creek to Town Centre; and within the Town Centre.

### *Need for more public toilets*

Stakeholder interviews with Council highlighted that the community (through the CSP engagement) expressed a strong desire for more public toilets in plazas and parks across Narrabri.

### *Desire for public art*

Stakeholder interviews with Council highlighted that the community (through the CSP engagement) indicated a desire for more public art in Narrabri, in particular more art that represented the native flora and fauna of the area.

### *More community representative communications*

Stakeholder interviews with Council highlighted that the First Nations community (through the CSP engagement) indicated a need for Council communications to include more references to the Gamilaroi People. Ideas included incorporating more First Nations artworks in communication and outreach materials.

### *Need for community service organisations*

Findings from the Preliminary EbD indicate a strong need for community service organisations to be provided within Narrabri to cater to local population and help activate the social infrastructure that will be provided in the future.



Figure 5 - University of Sydney campus located in Narrabri (Source: University of Sydney)



Figure 6 - Narrabri District Health Service Hospital



Figure 7 - Narrabri Old Gaol and Museum (Source: Visit Narrabri)



## 6. Social Infrastructure supply and demand analysis

This section provides a snapshot of the current provision, which includes an audit of all social infrastructure located across the Narrabri Shire LGA - existing and planned. While the existing social infrastructure provision in other important towns such as Wee Waa and Boggabri have been captured in the audit, the focus is primarily on the social infrastructure within and in close proximity to the Narrabri township.

This section also includes the benchmarking and demand for social infrastructure for the future Narrabri Shire population.

### Public facilities definitions & hierarchy

Community, cultural, sporting and recreation facilities can be defined within a hierarchy based on the catchment that it services in terms of geography and population size. The tables below provide the parameters for Regional/ Metropolitan, District and Local level facilities.

### Public open space and recreation facilities definitions

Public open space is land that is publicly accessible and used for recreation, leisure and outdoor entertainment purposes. This includes parks, sports grounds, civic and urban plazas as well as natural areas across Narrabri Shire.

Recreation facilities are the built infrastructure that supports recreation activities, such as: sports fields, outdoor courts, play spaces, swimming pools, indoor sports recreation centres, outdoor fitness stations, off-leash dog exercise areas, recreation trails, golf courses, lawn bowling clubs and community gardens.

### Catchments and hierarchy

Social infrastructure generally operates within a hierarchy of provision, with different scales of infrastructure servicing varying sized catchments in terms of the area and number of people serviced. The hierarchy levels are described in Table 2 on the right.

Table 2 - Catchment and hierarchy

Regional level facilities	
Location	Major towns/significant opportunity sites
Description	<p>Regional-level social infrastructure generally caters to 150,000 to 200,000+ people and often encompasses all towns and villages within the LGA. The scale of facilities is larger to accommodate a larger population and geographical area, and higher-order services.</p> <p>In some instance regional level facilities may service more than one Local government area (LGA). Such infrastructure is generally planned and funded at State or Commonwealth level, usually with local government participation.</p> <p>Within the context of Narrabri Shire LGA, regional level facilities will service all of the North West Region.</p>
Typical travel catchment	> 30 minutes drive
Examples	University and TAFE, hospitals, major cultural centres, youth centres and major sporting infrastructure.
LGA level facilities	
Location	Major towns/significant opportunity sites
Description	District-level social infrastructure generally caters to 25,000 to 50,000+ people and often encompasses surrounding towns and villages. Within the context of Narrabri Shire LGA, district-level facilities will service towns and villages in close proximity to Narrabri.
Typical travel catchment	15 to 30 minutes drive
Examples	Central library, multipurpose community centre, indoor leisure centre, district parks and play spaces
Local level facilities (planning catchment level)	
Location	Small centres/towns
Description	<p>Local level social infrastructure is provided to meet health, learning, and support needs and foster participation and social capital at a local level.</p> <p>Local social infrastructure is usually planned in partnership between community organisations and local governments (and with developers in the case of major development or industry areas).</p>
Typical travel catchment	5 to 15 minute walk
Examples	Community halls, branch libraries, local parks

## Benchmarking approach

**Population based benchmarks** are a commonly used tool in estimating the demand for various types of social infrastructure. They are used to give an indication of the number and size of items of social infrastructure that would ideally be provided if opportunity exists, feasibility is demonstrated, funding is available and the local context and site opportunities and limitations, as well as the broader provision close by, are taken into account. The benchmark standards used in this report are sourced from strategies and policies developed by Narrabri Shire Council and other regional Council areas, please refer to the Appendix to see a list of the standards.

It is important to note that benchmarking processes are not without limitation. Benchmarks take a historic approach to assumptions of future demand in calculating the quantum of community assets required. The output of benchmarking is a numeric expression of demand, that enables the comparison of like for like infrastructure across time and geography.

This report utilises the high-level forecast population growth scenarios outlined in section 4.2. Please refer to the benchmark standards in the Appendix.

**Best practice trends benchmarking** provides key guiding and innovative principles that will help guide the planning and delivery of social infrastructure in Narrabri.

*It is important that benchmarks/provision standards be interpreted as a guide only, and used in conjunction with other necessary assessment steps, such as undertaking an audit of the subject land area and surrounding communities, and detailed consultation with responsible agencies to confirm their likely provision strategy and service and facility delivery models.*



Figure 8 - Community events in Narrabri (Source: top - Narrabri Courier; bottom - Cheesemakingworkshop)

## 6.1. Audit of public facilities and population-based benchmarking

A social, cultural, and community infrastructure audit has been completed to understand the regional infrastructure across Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri.

The section below includes commentary on the future benchmark demand and if this is being met by current provision. Table 3 on page 34 applies population benchmarks for the three forecast growth scenarios. It shows that the demand for social infrastructure are more or less the same across the three scenarios, therefore, the commentary below does not make distinctions between the growth scenarios.

### Libraries

**Current provision** - The LGA is serviced by three existing libraries located in Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri. The libraries include public computers with internet access, printers, photocopiers and sewing machines. A home library service is also provided by Narrabri Shire Libraries.

Narrabri Shire Council has secured funding to deliver the Narrabri Shire mobile library. The mobile van will function as a pop-up and outreach service, intending to engage with local schools, aged care providers, Indigenous groups and disability support providers across the region.

Narrabri Shire Council also has a proposal to relocate the existing library to a new central location.

**Future demand** - Population benchmarks show that the LGA has a demand for one library from 2021 to 2041 which is already being met by the current provision. However, the increase in residents indicates a need for more library floorspace. The new relocated library has opportunities to provide more library floorspace, as well as provide contemporary library services.

### Community facilities and services

**Current provision** - As shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13, Narrabri is currently serviced by two public community services. This includes the Narrabri District Community Aid Service and the Narrabri Community Recycling Centre.

The Narrabri District Community Aid Service is located within the Narrabri Neighbourhood Centre, and it delivers community activities, counseling services and information to Narrabri residents. The Narrabri Community Recycling Centre is a free drop off centre for common household waste. Additional community-led facilities and services in Narrabri include the Narrabri Scout Hall, Narrabri Shire Community Radio and the Narrabri Men's Shed.

In addition, there are hireable spaces within The Crossing Theatre and the Swimming Pool. There are two more community facilities and services located in Wee Waa. These include the Wee Waa Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Wee Waa Neighbourhood Centre.

**Future demand** - Population benchmarks show that the LGA has a demand for one district and three local community facilities from 2021 to 2041.

There are limited dedicated community facilities located in Narrabri. In order to cater to current population and future growth including residents, workers and their families, a district-level community facility will be required in Narrabri to allow residents and workers to gather and socialise. There are opportunities to co-locate this with the future library, the Crossing Theatre or other community venues and services.

### Arts and cultural facilities

**Current provision** - As shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13, there are four cultural facilities located in Narrabri.

The Crossing Theatre is Narrabri Shire's premier entertainment venue. The multi-purpose venue has two cinemas, a cafe and four event spaces that can accommodate groups from 10 people to 1,000 people. Many community groups utilise the Crossing Theatre, including the Narrabri Shire Band who rehearse on a regular basis.

There is one museum located in Narrabri, the Narrabri Old Gaol Heritage Centre. In addition, the Narrabri Region Visitor Information Centre is located in the former Australian Cotton Centre and includes information about the local history. Kamilaroi Stories, an interactive touchscreen installation including cultural history and stories told by Kamilaroi Elders is a permanent exhibition in the Narrabri Visitor Information Centre.

Narrabri Shire Council recently secured funding from the NSW Government Regional Cultural Fund to purchase an outdoor cinema screen. The equipment will be based in Narrabri and transported to various locations to serve the needs of community groups and neighbouring towns.

There are two historical museums located in Wee Waa. In addition, funding has been secured from the Murray-Darling Basin Economic Development Program to develop a new premise for the Wee Waa Community Arts and Cultural Centre. There are two historical museums located in Boggabri.

Council is also an active member of Arts North West.

**Future demand** - Population benchmarks show that the LGA has a demand for 0.4 to 0.6 district cultural facility from 2021 to 2041, which is met by current provision within the LGA. However, based on community feedback there are opportunities to provide dedicated spaces





Figure 9 - University of Sydney campus located in Narrabri (Source: University of Sydney)



Figure 10 - Narrabri District Health Service Hospital



Figure 11 - Narrabri Old Gaol and Museum (Source: Visit Narrabri)

for the First Nations community as well as community participation spaces such as maker spaces within existing cultural facilities for the wider community.

## Schools

**Current provision** - As shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13, there are three primary schools and one high school located in Narrabri. Across the Narrabri Shire LGA, there are ten additional primary schools and one high school located in Wee Waa. Furthermore, the Namoi Valley Christian School in Wee Waa, which currently has 73 enrolled students, is planning to expand its infrastructure to accommodate students up to Year 10.

A new high school is planned for Wee Waa. The redevelopment of Wee Waa High School caters for current and future community needs and will include new learning spaces, core facilities, an Aboriginal learning centre, an agricultural centre and sports courts.

**Future demand** - It is important to note that the Narrabri Shire experiences a loss of children and families to neighboring areas or boarding schools due to the absence of a private secondary school within the LGA.

The formal advice from Department of Education indicated that enrollment demand of the town of Narrabri is met through Narrabri Public School, Narrabri West Public School and Narrabri High School. There is also one non-government school – St Francis Xavier’s Primary School.

In 2022, there are 594 primary students and 551 secondary students enrolled across the three government schools. This represents utilisation of around 86% of the permanent primary level accommodation and around 84% of the permanent secondary level accommodation. Narrabri Public School has a site area of 1.8 hectares, Narrabri West Public School 3.3 hectares and Narrabri High School 7.0 hectares.

To plan for schools, the Department of Education considers a range of factors including long-term trends in population, the likely uptake of new housing by those with school aged children, the ratio of government and non-government school attendance and the size and location of existing schools. As a first preference and where appropriate, the Department of Education will optimise use of existing assets, including responses of realigning school intake areas to redistribute demand and use of temporary classrooms.

## Tertiary education

**Current provision** - As shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13, a TAFE NSW campus is located in the Narrabri township. The campus offers 57 courses relating to business, technology, community services, hospitality and tourism. TAFE NSW Narrabri aims to provide training to fill skills gaps in the local workforce.

The University of Sydney's Faculty of Science also have a campus in Narrabri, specialising in plant breeding and grain research.

The Country University Centre North West is a dedicated learning and study space located in Narrabri. It provides free access to high-speed internet, modern technology and general academic support for regional students.

**Future demand** - There are no established population benchmarks for tertiary institutions. However, considering the high number of education and training institutions in the area, there is a significant opportunity for Narrabri to become a more established educational hub for the region.

### Youth spaces

**Current provision** - There is no operational youth centre in Narrabri. It is planned that the Narrabri & District Community Aid Service will open a new youth centre, which will be located near to Narrabri High School. The new youth centre will service local teenagers with free educational and leisure-based initiatives.

**Future demand** - Population benchmarks do not trigger the need for a dedicated youth centre in the LGA. However, considering the area's focus on retaining young people, there is an opportunity for industries to collaborate with the planned youth centre in providing mentoring, socialising and skills training services.

### Early childhood education and care

**Current provision** - There are no Council-owned long day care facilities within the LGA. There are seven early education and childhood centres located in Narrabri that collectively provide 182 long day care (LDC) places, 60 out of school hours care (OSHC) places, and 20 places as part of a preschool.

There are two preschools located in Wee Waa. A new early learning centre recently opened in Boggabri, which also provides before and after school care for children in the area. They collectively provide 61 LDC places and 30 OSHC places, and 29 places as part of a preschool.

**Future demand** - Population benchmarks indicate a benchmark demand for 156 LDC places and 180 OSHC places to cater to the 2021 population. This is likely to grow to 180 - 200 LDC places and 200 - 233 OSHC places by 2041.

If Narrabri is to accommodate more residential uses in the future, new early childhood education and care services will be required to support the increased population.

### Hospitals and healthcare

**Current provision** - As shown in Figure 12 and Figure 13, there is one hospital located in Narrabri. A community hospital is located in Wee Waa and a multipurpose health service including a residential aged care facility is located in Boggabri.

**Future demand** - The significant proportion of FIFO workers who will live and work in Narrabri for a number of years will add pressure to the existing health and hospital system in the area. If healthcare/ health centres are not provided by future employers, consideration should be given to increasing the resources in the public healthcare system at least during construction years.

### Emergency services

**Current provision** - The towns of Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri are each serviced with a police station and fire station. NSW SES also operate in Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri, and there is a NSW Rural Fire Service Narrabri Brigade located in Narrabri.

**Future demand** - The current provision meet the population benchmark demand for one fire station and one police station in the LGA.



Figure 12 - Narrabri Shire LGA public facilities

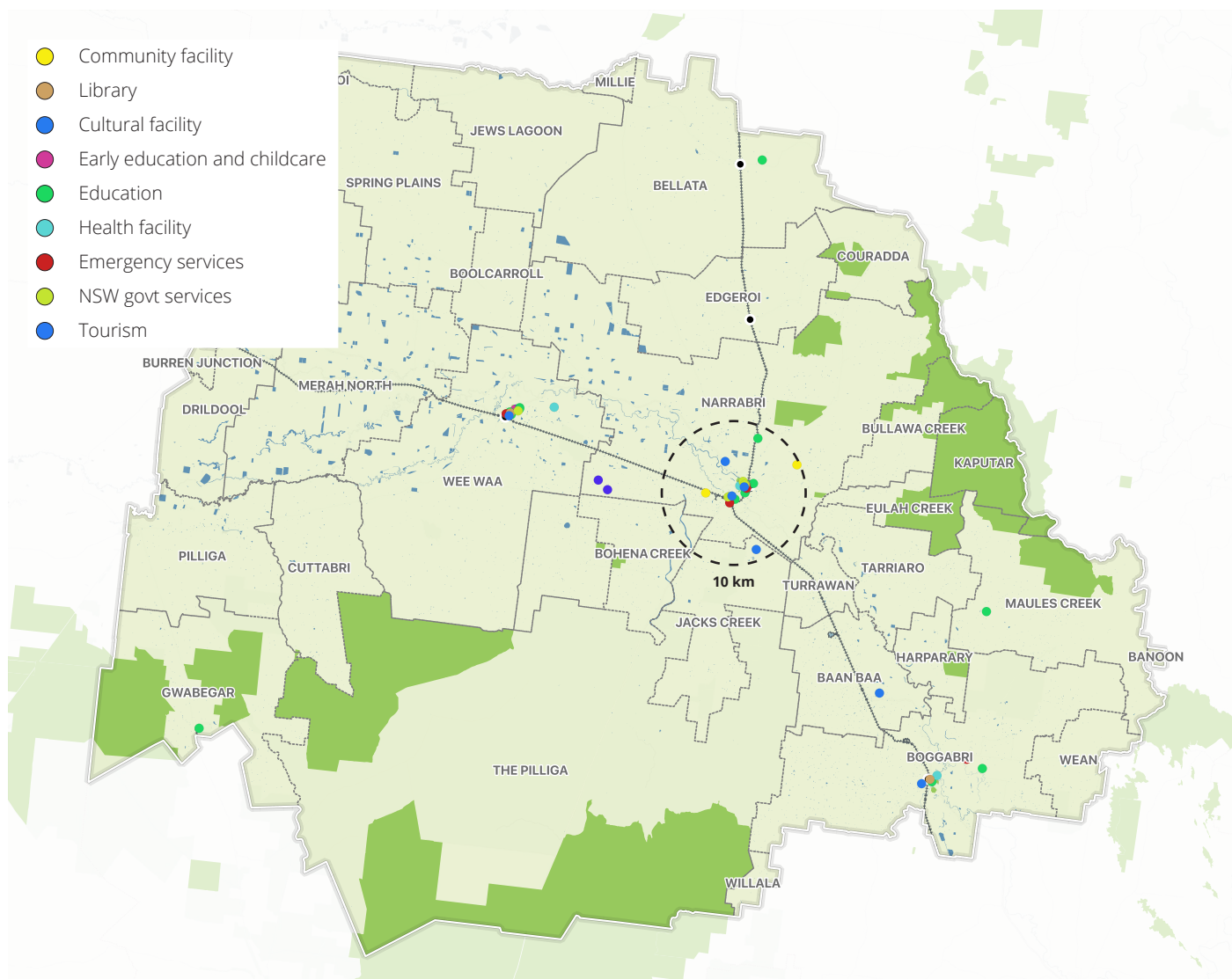


Figure 13 - Narrabri township public facilities





Map Ref	Name
<b>Community facilities and services</b>	
C1	Narrabri & District Community Aid Service
C2	Narrabri Community Recycling Centre
C3	Narrabri Shire Youth Shack
C4	Narrabri Scout Hall
C5	Narrabri Shire Community Radio
<b>Cultural facility</b>	
M1	The Crossing Theatre
M2	Narrabri Old Gaol & Museum
M3	Narrabri Visitor Information Centre
M4	Australia Telescope Compact Array
M5	CSIRO Paul Wild Observatory - Australia Telescope Compact Array
<b>Early education and childcare</b>	
A1	Community Kids Narrabri Early Education Centre
<b>Education</b>	
E1	The University of Sydney Plant Breeding Institute
E2	St Francis Xavier's Primary School, Narrabri
E3	Narrabri Public School
E4	TAFE NSW
E5	Narrabri High School
E6	Narrabri West Public School
<b>Emergency services</b>	
R1	NSW Rural Fire Service
R2	Narrabri Police Station
R3	Fire and Rescue NSW Narrabri Fire Station
<b>Health facility</b>	
H1	Narrabri District Health Service Hospital
<b>Library</b>	
L1	Narrabri Library
<b>NSW Govt services</b>	
N1	Service NSW
N2	Australia Post - Narrabri Post Shop
N3	Australia Post - Narrabri West LPO
<b>Tourism</b>	
T1	Narrabri Fish Farm
T2	Narrabri Showgrounds Camping Area
T3	Narrabri Big Sky Caravan Park
T4	Shanty on Namoi Camping
T5	Old Baan Baa School
T6	Boggabri Showground Camping Area



Figure 14 - Mobile toy library by the Narrabri District Community Aid Service (Source: NDCAS)



Figure 15 - Crossing Theatre Narrabri (Source: Arts North West Connect)



Figure 16 - Crossing Theatre Narrabri (Source: Visit Narrabri)

## 6.2. Audit of public open space and population-based benchmarking

A recreation, sporting and open space infrastructure audit has been completed to understand the current provision across Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri.

The high-level audit captured facilities within parks and open space, natural and conservation areas, play spaces, youth spaces, sportsfields and provides a snapshot of existing facilities which the future workers and residents of the Narrabri SAP area will have access to.

Residents have access to a variety of sport (except for indoor) and recreation experiences. However, the Narrabri Shire Sport Recreation and Open Space Plan 2017-2032 (SROS Plan) identified a lack of infrastructure to support informal recreation, such as connecting pathways, signage, bench seats, quality playgrounds, and picnic facilities.

### Parks

**Current provision** - The SROS Plan notes that there is a current provision of 42 ha of recreation park space in Narrabri. This accounts for 17% of the total open space in Narrabri. There are five parks in Narrabri - Blanche Peardon Drive Park, Cameron Park, Collins Park, Narrabri Lake recreational area, and Selina Street Park.

The Narrabri Lake recreational area has a walking track, horse exercise area and an outdoor fitness station. Many of the parks in Narrabri include picnic shelters, electric BBQ facilities and play equipment.

There are three parks located in Boggabri. These include Anzac Park, Rotary Park and Vickery Park. There are three parks located in Wee Waa, including Dangar Park, Ludowici Park and Rotary Park.

**Future demand** - The current provision of parks and open space far exceeds the benchmarked demand for open space within the LGA.

However, it will be important to improve existing open spaces to more high-quality and district level open space close to water bodies. The SROS Plan also notes that the Narrabri town lacks a feature recreation park that provide a range of activities for all ages.

It should be noted that workers typically use parks and recreation facilities during lunch breaks and after work hours for exercise and socialising. Therefore, providing well-designed high quality open spaces will ensure both residents and workers can use it well. High quality open spaces are also easier to maintain and reduce operational and maintenance pressures on Council.

The SROS Plan also identifies several actions for specific parks including Cameron Park, Dangar Park and Newtown Park.

### Natural and conservation areas

**Current provision** - There are many natural and conservation areas that surround Narrabri. One national park and two state parks are located near to Narrabri. These include Mount Kaputar National Park, the Pilliga Forest and Leard State Forest. There are several locations of interest within these parks that bring visitors to the area, for example Sawn Rocks, Salt Caves, Waa Gorge and the Sandstone Caves.

The Rocky Creek Glacial Area is an ancient geological site located 73 km from Narrabri and is another location of interest for visitors.

The Namoi River and Narrabri Creek run through the Narrabri township. Near Narrabri is Yarrie Lake and Narrabri Lake. These freshwater bodies provide an avenue for residents and visitors to engage in recreational activities, including swimming, canoeing and windsurfing. These lakes also attract migrating birds and bring birdwatchers the area.

**Future demand** - There are no established benchmarks for natural and conservation areas. Additional embellishments for Narrabri Lake will help to ensure that facility remains attractive to a wide range of residents and visitors. The SROS Plan identifies actions such as activating the Namoi River and Narrabri Creek through establishing non-motorised boat launching sites and free camping sites.

### Sports space

**Current provision** - The Narrabri Shire LGA has a high number of sporting ovals and fields.

The SROS Plan notes that there is a current provision of 23 ha of sports park space in Narrabri. This accounts for 9% of the total open space in Narrabri. Council manages 14 ovals and sporting fields in Narrabri. Three of these fields include grandstands and night lights and can be booked by the general public.

There are additional two sports fields in Wee Waa and one located in Boggabri.

**Future demand** - The current provision of sports space far exceeds the benchmarked demand within the LGA from 2021 to 2041.

The SROS Plan notes that while there is an adequate amount of sports space, the current arrangements have fields being used at and above capacity given preference for sporting codes to use quality lit facilities. It states that more direct management with a goal of developing 'homes' for each sport will ensure a more rational and sustainable approach to field use. The development of field lighting and suitable ancillary infrastructure will be a key requirement to achieve these outcomes.

The SROS Plan also identifies several actions for specific sports spaces including Hogan Oval, Leitch Oval, Cooma Sportsground and Gatey fields.

## Youth spaces

**Current provision** - There are limited spaces dedicated for young people in Narrabri. Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri each have a small skatepark.

**Future demand** - The current provision meets the benchmark demand for aquatic facilities. However, to support Narrabri to be an attractive place to live and work, particularly for families and younger residents, recreational spaces for young people will be required in Narrabri.

The SROS Plan also identified that the young people in Narrabri highlighted the need for an upgraded skate park and for it be relocated to a safer location.

## Play spaces

**Current provision** - As shown in Figure 17 and Figure 18, there are five playgrounds located in Narrabri, including the Pirate Park Playground at Narrabri Lake and play areas at Cameron Park, Collins Park, Selina Street Park and Blanche Peardon Drive Park.

There are three playgrounds located in Wee Waa, and one playground in Boggabri.

**Future demand** - The current provision of number of local play spaces meets the benchmark demand from 2021 to 2041.

However, there is a benchmark demand for 1.0 district level playspace in the LGA that is not being met by current provision. The SROS Plan particularly highlighted that younger children are seeking more challenging play opportunities within Narrabri. Council is currently developing a playground in Narrabri as part of the Tourism and Cultural Hub that should meet this demand.

## Indoor sports centre

**Current provision** - There are no indoor sports spaces in the Narrabri Shire LGA.

**Future demand** - Population benchmarks indicate a demand for 1.0 indoor sports centre from 2016 to 2041. However, the SROS Plan notes that there is limited demand for an indoor sports facility in the area. It also states that it is uncommon for a town the size of Narrabri not to have access to such a facility. Rather than Council look to develop a facility, the SROS Plan recommended that a joint approach with the local high school be investigated.

## Aquatic recreation

**Current provision** - As shown in Figure 17 and Figure 18, there are three public swimming pools in the Narrabri Shire LGA. These are located in Narrabri, Wee Waa and Boggabri.

The Narrabri Aquatic Centre is a year-round aquatic facility and features an indoor heated swimming pool, outdoor pool and meeting rooms. There are a number of access points to allow residents to participate in water sports and recreational activities, for example Cameron Park located in Narrabri has a boat ramp into the Namoi River.

**Future demand** - The current provision meets the benchmark demand for aquatic facilities.

The SROS Plan identifies that in the next 3-5 years Council needs to investigate the feasibility of replacing its public pool in Narrabri (50m) in consultation with the community.

The SROS Plan also notes that the community highly value water-based sports such as kayaking, canoeing and spending time in nature. In the future, it will be important to preserve existing natural areas, and where possible provide more launch points into the water. This opportunity to expand aquatic and recreational facilities in Narrabri will also respond to the projected increase of extreme heat and drought events.

## Dog parks

**Current provision** - There are no dedicated dog parks within the Narrabri Shire LGA.

**Future demand** - While the population benchmarks only trigger a demand for 0.3 dog exercise areas, the SROS Plan recommends establishing a small dog off-leash park at Narrabri Lake.

## Recreation trails

**Current provision** - The Narrabri Shire LGA provides recreational trails within parks adjoining Narrabri Creek and the Naomi River.

**Future demand** - While there are no established benchmarks for recreational trails, there is a significant opportunity for Narrabri to provide recreational trails and loops that connect the existing open spaces with lighting for day and night use and interpretive signage that reinforces the connection with country, local flora and fauna.

## Other recreation facilities

Narrabri Shire LGA and Narrabri have other recreational facilities that are drawcards for the local community and visitors. These include the Narrabri Fish Farm, Pilliga Hot Artesian Bore Baths located near Pilliga, Australia Telescope Compact Array, CSIRO Paul Wild Observatory, and the CSIRO Australia Telescope located between Narrabri and Wee Waa.



Figure 17 - Narrabri Shire LGA public open space

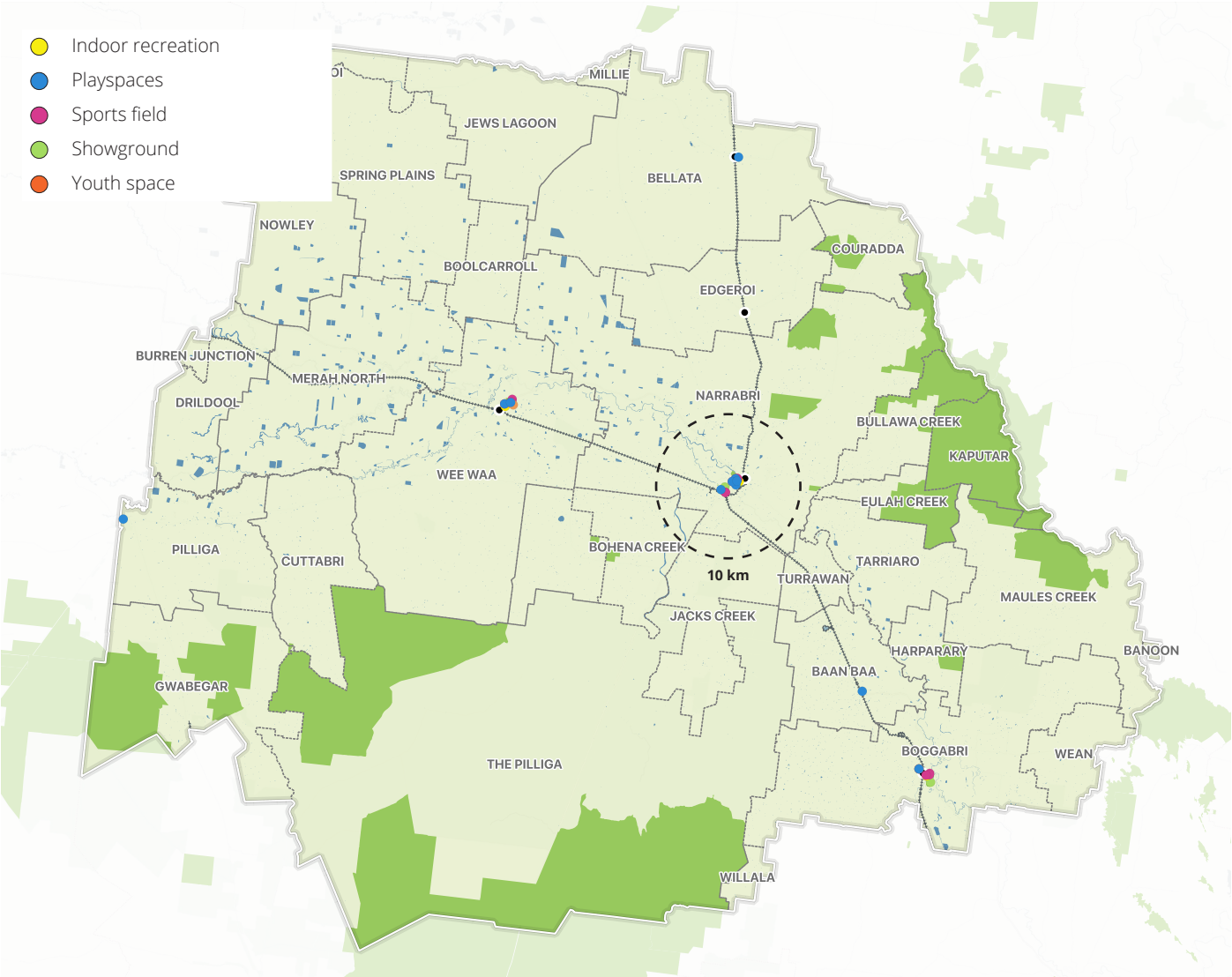


Figure 18 - Narrabri township public open space



Map Ref	Name
Indoor recreation/ swimming pool	
I1	Narrabri Aquatic Centre
Showgrounds	
S1	Narrabri Showgrounds
Sportsfield	
F1	Cooma Sporting Field
F2	Dangar Sporting Field
F3	Gately Park
F4	Leitch Park
F5	Cameron Park
F6	Collins Park
F7	Hogan Park
Playspaces	
P1	Blanche Peadon Drive
P2	Cameron Park
P3	Collins Park
P4	Narrabri Lake recreational area
P5	Selina Street Park



Figure 22 - Pirate Park Playground, Narrabri (Source: Zeglar Fergus)



Figure 20 - Sawn Rocks in Mount Kaputar National Park (Source: Visit Narrabri)



Figure 19 - Narrabri Skatepark



Figure 21 - Sandstone Caves in the Pilliga Nature Reserve (Source: Harrison Candlin/DPIE)



Table 3 - Narrabri Shire LGA Social Infrastructure population benchmarking

Social infrastructure types		Baseline Alternate Population Estimates			Aspirational Growth Scenario (0.5% p.a. post-2030)			Aspirational Growth Scenario (1.0% p.a. post-2030)		
		2021	2031	2041	2021	2031	2041	2021	2031	2041
		13,019 people	15,100 people	14,531 people	13,019 people	15,218 people	15,996 people	13,019 people	15,293 people	16,893 people
Public facilities Benchmark										
LIBRARY	(Branch library - 1 per 15,000 people)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	FLOORSPACE (80 m <sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people)	1,042 m <sup>2</sup>	1,208 m <sup>2</sup>	1,162 m <sup>2</sup>	1,042 m <sup>2</sup>	1,217 m <sup>2</sup>	1,280 m <sup>2</sup>	1,042 m <sup>2</sup>	1,223 m <sup>2</sup>	1,351 m <sup>2</sup>
	LOCAL (1 per 5,000 people)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	DISTRICT (1 per 20,000 people)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
CULTURAL FACILITY	REGIONAL (1 per 100,000 people)	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2
	DISTRICT (1 per 30,000 people)	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.6
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE	Long day care (1 place per 5 children 0-4 years)	156 places	181 places	174 places	156 places	183 places	192 places	156 places	184 places	203 places
	OSHC (1 place per 5 children 5-11 years)	180 places	208 places	201 places	180 places	210 places	221 places	180 places	211 places	233 laces
SCHOOL	Primary	Based on advice from Schools Infrastructure NSW								
	High	Based on advice from Schools Infrastructure NSW								
EMERGENCY SERVICES	Fire station (1 per 20,000 people)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Police Station (1 per 20,000 people)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HOSPITAL BEDS	3 beds per 1,000 people	39	45	44	39	46	48	39	46	51
Public open spaces										
PARKS	Number of people (2.8 ha per 1,000 people)	36 ha	42 ha	41 ha	36 ha	43 ha	45 ha	36 ha	43 ha	47 ha
	Local parks (0.4 ha per 1,000 people)	5 ha	6 ha	6 ha	5 ha	6 ha	6 ha	5 ha	6 ha	7 ha
	District parks (0.6 ha per 1,000 people)	8 ha	9 ha	9 ha	8 ha	9 ha	10 ha	8 ha	9 ha	10 ha
	Regional parks (0.25 ha per 1,000 people)	3 ha	4 ha	4 ha	3 ha	4 ha	4 ha	3 ha	4 ha	4 ha
AQUATIC FACILITIES	Regional (1 per 20,000 to 50,000 people)	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.8
PLAY SPACES	District (1 per 25,000 people)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Local (1 per 2,000 people)	7	8	7	7	8	8	7	8	8
INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE	District (1 per 20,000 to 50,000 people)	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.7	0.3 to 0.8	0.3 to 0.8
OUTDOOR RECREATION	Outdoor multi-purpose courts (1 per 10,000 people)	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	2
	Fitness equipment (1 per 15,000 people)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Skate facilities (1 per 25,000 people)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Dog parks (1 per 50,000 people)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3



## 6.3. Best practice trends benchmarking

A review of best practices in the social infrastructure planning and delivery have highlighted the following leading trends that Narrabri can adopt in the next stages of work, regardless of its scope within the SAP.

### Co-located and multi-functional

The term 'co-located' or 'precinct-based' refers to the integration of social infrastructure in one location or building to provide better access to a wider range of services as well as a more cost effective way of delivering and operating these services. Integrating community infrastructure within precincts helps to achieve key gathering points within a community with a variety of offerings.

This approach improves efficiency through encouraging compatible uses, supporting partnerships between different service providers and increasing the overall flexibility and activity. The flexibility and adaptability of social infrastructure is crucial so as to remain sustainable and responsive in the future.

For Narrabri, it would be important to co-locate community and cultural spaces with other existing social infrastructure so as to improve utilisation, optimise Council assets and increase safety through passive surveillance. Co-locating the Tourism and Cultural Hub with The Crossing Theatre, and the opportunity to co-locate the future library with the Tafe are ways to demonstrate best practice.

### Accessible and networked

Social infrastructure should not be planned in isolation but be considered as a broader network of facilities that work together to meet a broad range of community needs, across a neighbourhood, suburb, catchment or region. This integrated, strategic approach allows facilities to provide a different but complementary range of offerings. By considering assets as part of a network, duplication of all resource allocation can be avoided, therefore, representing a more economically sustainable approach to social infrastructure planning.

Stakeholder interviews have highlighted that there is a lack of education and training facilities in the region, however, there are research institutions and industries that are located within the region. Planning for Narrabri should account for how future social infrastructure ties into the existing network of assets.

### Local identity and sense of place

The broader agenda for the development of social infrastructure has been to establish a distinct sense of place and community identity. The infrastructure has the capacity to become the focal point of the community, and a central gathering place so as to improve the overall well-being of a local community.

It may be a large iconic building, or a smaller, more intimate place, yet either should present a reflection of local culture. The design of community buildings and welcoming places should also aim to enhance the physical attraction of a public place, aiming to be aesthetically appealing and fitting within a particular context.

Public art could also be incorporated into building design- a way to create distinctive and welcoming centres. Public art is an important avenue to explore when creating a sense of place and local identity, becoming an expressive tool to tell local stories and create places that are recognised and valued by the community.

For Narrabri, there are opportunities to reflect the First Nations culture and build a sense of place and ownership in future social infrastructure provision. There are further opportunities to deliver public art that reflect and strengthen local identity.

### Getting more out of existing assets

Regional councils have limited capital budget to deliver significant quantum of new social infrastructure, and have limited operational budget to maintain them. Therefore, there is a need to maximise existing assets to their full potential. Multi-use community space, recreation spaces such as hybrid courts and fields allow different activities to occur in the same space.

Narrabri should consider making existing assets work harder before delivering new infrastructure.

### New life to old infrastructure

Converting redundant road or rail infrastructure to parks is an emerging trend across the globe. Building parks above, or amongst decommissioned roads, overpasses, tunnels or railway opens up spaces within the city for recreation that were previously inaccessible to people.

Converting the disused rail corridor in Narrabri into a recreation green health loop would deliver would demonstrate best practice.

### **Inclusion and universality**

Inclusion happens when every person who wishes to (irrespective of age, disability, gender, religion, sexual preference or cultural heritage) can access and participate fully in all aspects of an activity or service in the same way as any other member of the community.

Dimensions of inclusion include: being heard and valued; meaningful participation; connection and belonging; opportunity to access support, and choice and control in your life. Social infrastructure is important to the wellbeing and health of adults and children with disabilities. Universal design is an approach that ensures that recreation options and programs are inclusive of everyone. Where implemented, it is also important that universal and accessible design features within existing and new facilities and parks are communicated to the community.

The inclusive playground being built in Narrabri is first of many steps in making Narrabri a welcoming and inclusive place for all. Aspects of inclusivity should be embedded in all aspects of planning and delivery of social infrastructure.

### **Outdoor rooms for collaboration and social connections**

Gathering, learning, socialising, collaborating, and delivering programs outdoor is increasing in popularity. Recent events have also accelerated demand for these types of outdoor meeting and collaboration spaces with people working from home seeking social connection, and encouraging collaboration in informal environments.

The community at Narrabri have expressed in previous engagements that they love spending time with their families and friends in an outdoor setting and connect with nature. Creating high quality out room living rooms will leverage the natural beauty and foster social cohesion.

### **Temporary, pop up and movable**

Pop-up and temporary social infrastructure can be implemented through simple and low-cost measures. In areas such as Narrabri, the significant influx of workers and worker residents who will live in the area for a few years will exert pressure on the existing social infrastructure.

Pop-up an temporary social infrastructure such as community kiosks that are adaptable and movable are also an emerging trend that can be utilised for the years in need, which can then be rationalised to improve other social infrastructure.

### **Public Private Partnerships & cross sector collaboration**

Public Private Partnerships allow all levels of governments and the private sector to work together and share resources to plan for, deliver and manage major projects. This usually involves governments providing incentives for the private sector to deliver a public asset or service. To be successful, these partnerships require shared vision, early commitment and comprehensive planning.

Considering the industries that will be established in the Narrabri SAP area, future partnerships can be explored to make Narrabri a great place for everyone to live, work and play.

## 7. Social infrastructure directions and recommendations

Based on the findings from the above sections, through the refinement of options and discussions with stakeholders and at the EbD workshops, social infrastructure opportunities and recommendations for Narrabri are outlined below.

This section outlines the recommended social infrastructure planning directions, social infrastructure requirements, and performance indicators.

### 7.1. Social infrastructure planning principles

Through the baseline analysis, social and community infrastructure needs assessment and discussion with various stakeholders, the following planning principles have been developed to provide direction for the social infrastructure provision in Narrabri:

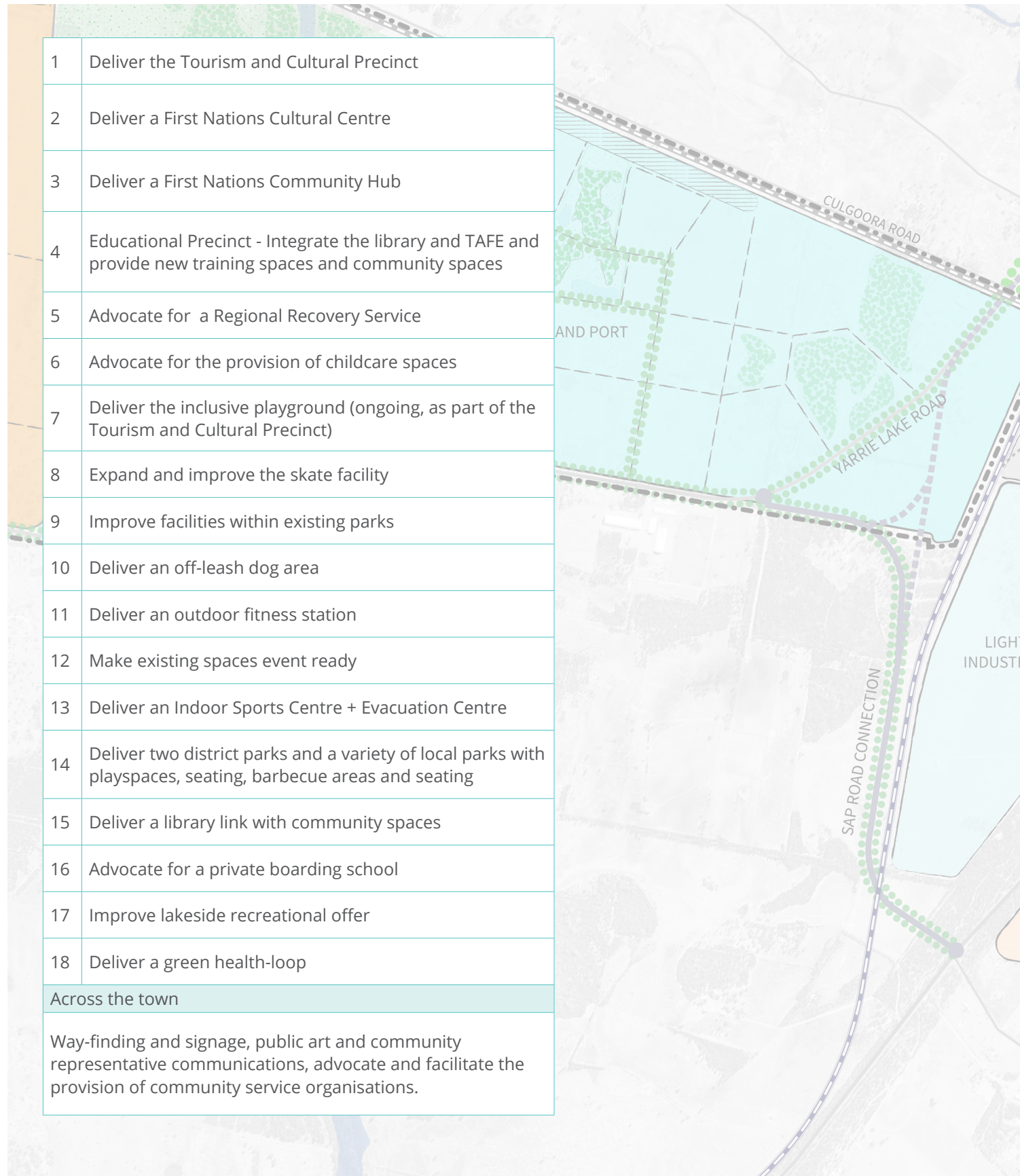
- Proactively plan for an integrated Narrabri, so the Town Centre, Lakeside Village and Mount Kaputar Precinct feel and function as one town together
- Plan for and deliver social infrastructure that can provide a variety of experiences for residents and workers
- Reinforce Narrabri Town Centre as the central hub for Narrabri, and continue to improve existing social infrastructure in the Town Centre, and deliver planned infrastructure including the Tourism and Cultural Hub
- Activate Narrabri Town Centre with everyday and destination activities that bring people together
- Future-proof Narrabri's growth in Mount Kaputar Precinct by providing adequate social infrastructure to meet their needs from day one and make it complimentary and a genuine extension of Narrabri Town Centre
- Improve Lakeside Village's social amenity through leveraging its connection to the Lake and nearby natural assets
- Proactively plan to better support the First Nations community in Narrabri with appropriate social infrastructure and services
- Leverage existing education network and establish Narrabri as an Educational and Training Hub, to upskill existing population, as well as attract and retain people in Narrabri, and
- While large-scale investments set the foundation upon which other activities can be layered, short-term and community-led processes and provision of social infrastructure - both permanent and temporary - can inform bigger and lengthier undertakings and create crucial momentum.



## 7.2. Social infrastructure opportunities

This section outlines the recommended social infrastructure requirements to support the existing and future population to align to the overall vision and principles for the Narrabri SAP and the social infrastructure planning principles.

Figure 23 - Social infrastructure opportunities for Narrabri (Basemap source: Narrabri SAP Structure Plan, Hatch Roberts Day)



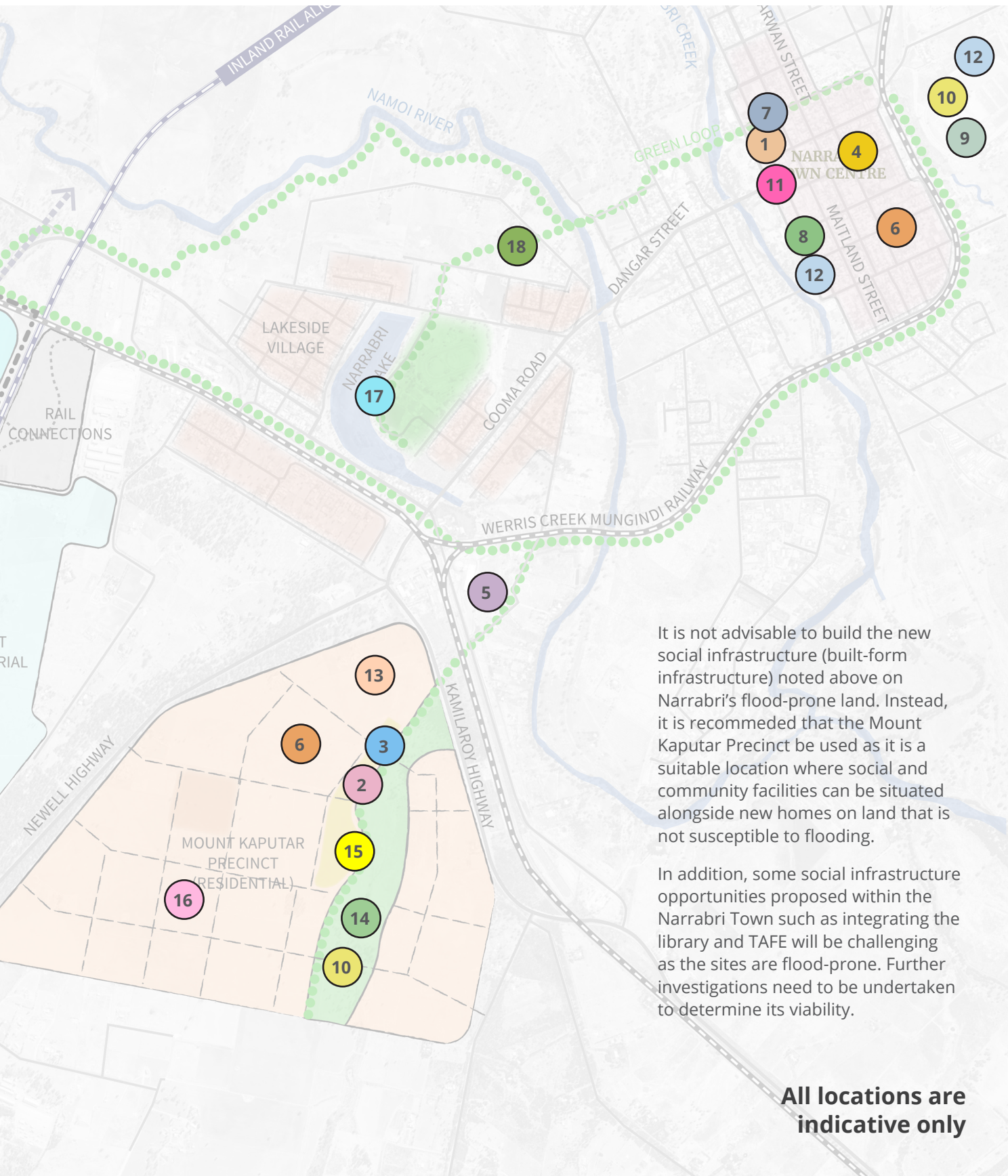


Table 4 - Social infrastructure opportunities for Narrabri

Map Ref	SI type	Size	New/ Improve/ Expand	Priority - High/ Medium/ Low	Description + rationale
Within Narrabri Town Centre					
1	Deliver the Tourism and Cultural Precinct	Council TBC	New	High	<p>Council is already in the planning stages of the Tourism and Cultural Precinct, this is co-located with the inclusive playground that is under construction.</p> <p>The aim of the Precinct is to provide spaces for social, sporting and cultural events in the future, expanding both Narrabri's tourism appeal and community connectivity.</p> <p>There are opportunities to provide affordable community hireable spaces within the Precinct and connect it to active and public transport.</p>
2	Deliver a First Nations Cultural Centre	Upto 1,500 sqm	New	Medium	<p>Consultation with First Nations communities indicate a strong desire for a First Nations Cultural Centre, a place to learn about Aboriginal cultural for all ages and a place for the community to practice it.</p> <p>This facility should be a welcoming space for the First Nations community in Narrabri, build awareness of their culture, strengthen their connections to Country, and provide a safe space to gather and socialise.</p>
3	Deliver a First Nations Community Hub	Upto 1,000 sqm	New	High	<p>Consultation with First Nations communities indicate a strong desire for a one-stop shop for services and community activities. This would be a community hub that includes diverse spaces and functions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A First Nations Health service</li> <li>• An Aboriginal focused early education and childcare centre, and</li> <li>• Community hireable spaces</li> <li>• There should a be a focus on services being delivered by First Nations people.</li> </ul>



Map Ref	SI type	Size	New/ Improve/ Expand	Priority - High/ Medium/ Low	Description + rationale
4	Educational Precinct - Integrate the library and TAFE and provide new training spaces and community spaces	Upto 2,500 sqm	Expand and improve	High	<p>The current library is ageing and Council is considering to relocate it. In addition, the TAFE currently offers limited programs (anecdotal evidence).</p> <p>This Educational Precinct can include the new and expanded library space, incorporate TAFE spaces, and provide new training spaces for young people and community hireable spaces. This Educational Precinct can also be an outreach service for tertiary education and research organisations such as the International Centre for Crop and Farming, Wheat Foundation and Western Sydney University. There are opportunities to develop this Educational Precinct at the existing TAFE site or library site.</p> <p>Leverage the International Centre for Crop and Farming, Wheat Foundation and Western Sydney University's presence in Narrabri and develop training opportunities for young people.</p>
5	Advocate for a Regional Recovery Service	NA	New	Low	There is a lack of recovery services in regional areas and these towns are dependent on services in Sydney. Advocate for a Regional Recovery Service to be integrated as part of Fire or SES services.
6	Advocate for the provision of childcare spaces	NA	Improve	High	There are limited childcare vacancies and places in Narrabri. There are opportunities to provide more childcare services within public schools. In addition, there are opportunities to provide certification and skills training for people to become child care professionals to address existing gaps - more childcare professionals mean there will be capacity to provide more childcare places.
7	Deliver the inclusive playground (ongoing)	NA	Ongoing	High	There is an identified gap of a district play space/ playground in Narrabri, and Council is addressing it through the construction of a best practice and inclusive playground as part of the planned Tourism and Cultural Hub.
8	Expand and improve the skate facility	NA	Improve	Low	Findings from Council's CSP engagement indicate that the existing skate park is limited in size, limited in variety of skating slopes and heights, and has limited visibility. There is an opportunity to expand the existing skating facility, provide more slopes for beginners, improve lighting and visibility from the street.
9	Improve facilities within parks	NA	Improve	Low	Council policies identify a need to improve facilities within existing parks. This includes improved playspaces, providing seating, barbecue, public toilets, shelter and shade, night-time lighting and shared paths connecting to and from the town.
10	Deliver an off-leash dog area	0.3 ha	New	Medium	There is an opportunity to provide a dog park next to the new playground that will allow people to recreate with their pets within the town.

Map Ref	SI type	Size	New/ Improve/ Expand	Priority - High/ Medium/ Low	Description + rationale
11	Deliver an outdoor fitness station	0.1 ha	New	Medium	There are opportunities to provide outdoor fitness stations in Narrabri's parks to encourage healthy lifestyles.
12	Make existing spaces event ready	NA	Improve	Medium	Existing parks including green spaces outside The Crossing Theatre can be better supported with infrastructure to facilitate small weekly events. Existing civic public spaces and main streets in Narrabri can be improved to make them more event-ready.  This includes providing power supply, shaded areas, and easy governance systems for people to host events regularly and activate the public domain.
Within Mount Kaputar Precinct					
13	Deliver an Indoor Sports Centre + Evacuation Centre	To be determined at later stages of planning	New	High	There is an existing gap of an indoor sports centre in Narrabri. Council is in the early stages of planning a Sports Precinct/ Indoor Sports Centre. This can include indoor courts, gymnastics/ athletic spaces, accessible and inclusive toilets for different gender groups, and consider providing hireable community spaces.  This can be located in Mount Kaputar Precinct in a no/ low flood-risk area, so it can double up as an Evacuation Centre in times of emergencies.
14	Deliver 2 district parks and a variety of local parks	District park minimum size 2 ha, local park minimum size 0.5 ha	New	High	To cater to the new population who will live in Mount Kaputar Precinct, deliver two quality district parks and a variety of local parks distributed across the Precinct. These parks should be delivered early and be connected via quality walking and cycling links in order to provide high amenity to residents from day one.
15	Deliver a library link with community spaces	Upto 500 sqm	New	High	To cater to the new population who will live in Mount Kaputar Precinct, deliver a branch library or a library link close to shops and public transport. This can include community hireable spaces.
16	Advocate for a private boarding school	Minimum standards 2 ha for primary school and 4 ha for high school	New	Medium	Discussions at the EbD sessions highlighted the local community desire for a private school offering in Narrabri, this will also attract more people to move to and live in Narrabri. There are opportunities to provide an agriculture focused schools that partner with nearby universities.
Lakeside Village					
17	Improve lakeside recreational offer	NA	Improve	Medium	Council's CSP engagement findings indicate a desire for more water recreation in Narrabri. Leverage development in the Lakeside Village and improve recreational offer including kayaking and canoeing in the lake.

Map Ref	SI type	Size	New/ Improve/ Expand	Priority - High/ Medium/ Low	Description + rationale
Across the town					
18	Deliver a green health-loop	NA	New	High	Council's CSP engagement findings indicate a strong desire for more shared paths across Narrabri. Creating a recreational health loop will deliver on these ambitions and encourage longer outdoor stays. This health loop should connect key destinations across the Town Centre, Lakeside Village, Mount Kaputar Precinct and extend to the SAP industries.
19	Way-finding and signage	NA	Improve	High	Improve existing signage to increase community's awareness of the various facilities that Council offers, as well as to encourage people to use these facilities more often.
20	Public art	NA	New	Medium	Council's CSP engagement findings indicate a strong desire for more public art across Narrabri. Incorporate more public art in future social infrastructure that is reflective of the area's local flora, fauna, histories and stories.
21	Community representative communications	NA	Improve	High	Council's CSP engagement findings indicate that the communication material does not reflect the community, in particular, the lack of imagery/ art on the First Nations community. Ensure that future communication material on social infrastructure represents the community it services.
22	Advocate and facilitate the provision of community service organisations	NA	New	High	<p>Although outside of the scope of hard social infrastructure, the analysis and stakeholder interviews have indicated a strong need for Council to advocate for and facilitate the provision of more community service organisations in Narrabri that are co-located with social infrastructure.</p> <p>These organisations will provide the much-needed services in Narrabri, as well as help increase utilisation of the social infrastructure.</p>



## 7.3. Performance indicators

The performance indicators have been adapted from the Department of Planning and Environment's Great Public Spaces Evaluation Tool Criteria and NSW Government Architect's Designing with Country and Better Placed. All indicators have been categorised under the Narrabri SAP principles.

### Equity + Wellness

- The social infrastructure provided encourage positive social interactions or individual experiences e.g. talking, casual or planned
- People with a diversity of ages, genders, cultural or ethnic backgrounds are using the social infrastructure
- People have the facilities they need to stay e.g. end of trip facilities or drinking water
- There is a choice of places or features to safely sit, play, thrive and relax
- There are social or cultural activities appropriate to the space and audience (i.e. programmed activities or event)
- A range of comfortable places to sit, stay or relax and amenities are provided
- A range of things to do in the facilities and space including exercise, recreation, play, meeting, gathering, knowledge sharing and/or learning opportunities
- People are able to connect with each other in both a commercial and non-commercial settings
- The facilities and spaces encourage positive social interactions or individual experiences (e.g. casual or planned)
- Programming a range of activities contributes to strengthening social cohesion in the town

### Greenery + Resilience

- There are enough trees, grass and plants to make the public space shaded and comfortable
- Connect natural areas and waterways to support habitat and biodiversity in urban areas & connect people to nature
- People find it easy and pleasant to get to the public space, through a network of paths, streets, public transport and signage
- There is evidence of community stewardship and/or the facilities and space are well-loved and well attended for its function

### Identity + Urbanity

- People can meet and socialise, and it is a positive place that people want to stay
- Well designed, visually attractive with scenic qualities
- The public space feels welcoming with a sense of belonging and you feel encouraged to return
- There are local stories of significance (First Peoples, historic, cultural) told and celebrated in the public space and through the built environment and the activities
- Designed and developed in partnership with the First Nations People and surrounding local communities (workers and local residents)
- Co-design of engagement processes with community and embed Connecting with Country design principles in the design, delivery and management of social infrastructure
- Enables Traditional Custodians to continue practices on Country
- The key public spaces provided across the Town Centre and Mount Kaputar Precinct are lit at night and has clear sight lines and good visibility
- There is an interesting atmosphere and informal activities e.g. people watching, arts and cultural activations as well as organised/formal community, cultural, performance or creative activations

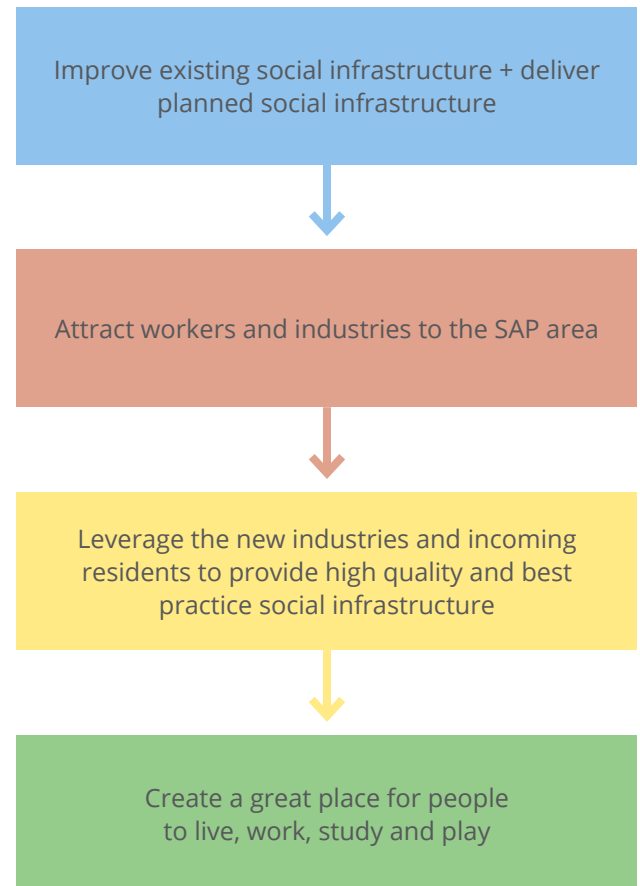
## 7.4. Phasing of social infrastructure in Narrabri

Social infrastructure is essential for maintaining and improving the quality of life of our communities. It is also critical for promoting social inclusion and cohesion for the people of Narrabri, this means not only making their everyday life better, but in many cases providing essential services required for communities to function.

Narrabri largely provides adequate quantum of social infrastructure with some gaps in indoor recreation, hireable community spaces, child care services and First Nations focused facilities.

However, the current social infrastructure provided only meet basic needs, which is not likely to encourage more people to move to or settle down in Narrabri. On the other hand, providing more high quality and best practice social infrastructure typically requires more people and industries to move into the area, as its development/ implementation may rely on funding options such as developer contributions.

Considering a the Master Plan's 40-year lifespan, it is recommended the approach for Narrabri be to improve the quality of existing social infrastructure and continue to deliver planned social infrastructure in the short to medium term, which is likely to attract new industries and workers to Narrabri. Leverage the inflow of workers, residents and industries, and provide new and best practice social infrastructure in the long term.



# 8. Appendix

## 8.1. Best practice precedents

This section outlines the best practice precedents and examples of social infrastructure that could inform the draft structure plan for Narrabri SAP and also to assess the future social and community infrastructure provision for the area. This will be expanded as the project progresses



### MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY SPACES

#### *Upgrading community facilities and co-location of services*

##### **Epping Community Services Hub**

In 2016, the City of Whittlesea in Victoria opened the Epping Services Community Hub in partnership with several social enterprise organisations. The Hub delivers a wide range of services, including disability support, multicultural services, employment help and emergency relief. The Hub's core purpose is to improve the performance of services which cater to the Epping community, by co-locating community services in a single facility, encouraging collaboration and innovation between service providers.

The Hub is a vibrant, accessible and family friendly building close to public transport. It includes a cafe run by both staff and participants, as well as a community computer hub.

Local governments can support network cohesion and increase collaboration between service providers by co-locating community services in a single facility.

Community services hubs also enable community members to easily access a range of community services within the one place. This is particularly beneficial for people who travel by public transport, bicycle or on foot.



Epping Community Services Hub (Source: City of Whittlesea)

##### **Deniliquin Creative Common Arts and Culture Hub**

Creating a focus for cultural, social and regional economic development, the Creative Common project will see renovation of an underutilised council building in Deniliquin and installation of a solar power system. Among its aims are improving accessibility, functionality and greater use of the heritage site. The project will deliver to arts and cultural organisations spaces for workshops, meetings and creative enterprise for youth and others. With co-location with key regional development organisations it is hoped the new creative hub will help promote and embed arts and cultural capacity in regional development.

##### **Blackman Park Scout and Amenities Hall, Lane Cove**

The new Scout hall and club house for Blackman Park in Lane Cove was jointly funded by the 1st Lane Cove Scout Group and Lane Cove Council, and is shared between Scouts and sports clubs. The building is designed to have a simple, flexible shell that can also serve a variety of other community uses. The building includes change rooms and toilets, sports storage sheds divided by code, referee room, canteen and a covered viewing terrace. The Scout hall section includes a main Scout hall, garage, Venturer's room, leaders/meeting room, kitchen and storage, and toilets.

The facility can be booked online and includes a meeting room, large hall, and small hall available at Commercial, General, and Concession and Community rates.



Blackman Park Scout and Amenities Hall (Source: Architects Johanssen + Associates)





## DANDARRGA COMMUNITY NURSERY

### *Building social capital through community-led initiatives*

Dandarrga Community Nursery is a native nursery located in Dorrigo, NSW. The not for profit organisation strives to instigate, promote, and provide for regenerative land, water and vegetation management practices, through communal activity, using local provenance seed and plants.

The project has established a working native plant nursery and a training facility to host workshops and provide consultations on propagation, seed collection and bush regeneration with local rainforest and fire-resistant species. Local residents can also loan weed management tools from the nursery. A local food seed bank and community gardens have also been established at the nursery to promote social connection.

The Dandarrga Community Nursery operates on volunteer hours, donations and shared resources, and receives income from grant funding, donations and tree sales.

### *Local knowledge sharing and training*

Dandarrga Community Nursery is centred on community education and skill building. Since 2017, educational workshops and events have been organised for community members and Landcare members. Dandarrga are also working in collaboration with Centrelink and local job agencies to train people who are unemployed in weed management, bush regeneration and project management.



Dandarrga Native Nursery (Source: NSW Landcare)



## TAMWORTH REGIONAL PLAYGROUND

### *Outdoor play spaces and fitness areas*

The award-winning Tamworth Regional Playground includes a café and restaurant, outdoor fitness facilities, large open green spaces, and a 9.1m high Skywalk, with three giant slides and four towers. A key aim of the project was to create a space suitable for the use of the entire community, including its culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

The park provides increased opportunity for leisure time and physical activity, for children and adults in the playground and outdoor fitness space. This allows community members who previously would not have had access to fitness facilities to improve their health and wellbeing. Community events, such as the annual Westpac Helicopter Colour Run, are hosted at the playground, and a weekly local grower markets utilise the exposure of the playground and adjoining precinct.

The playground is an important addition to Tamworth's amenities, making the region more attractive to residents and visitors.



Outdoor fitness station at Tamworth Regional Park (Source: Healthy Active)



Tamworth Regional Playground (Source: Outdoor Design)



## MOBILE LIBRARIES

### *Opportunity to develop partnerships and expand library services*

Narrabri Shire Council have secured funding from the NSW Government's Public Library Infrastructure Grant program to purchase and fit out a van that will be used as a mobile library. The mobile library will be equipped with a range of items such as folding tables, chairs, pop up marquees, books, sensory equipment, scientific and other accessories.

Mobile libraries play an important role in library service provision to people in many different geographic and demographic areas. They are predominately used throughout the eastern states of Australia, where they provide a practical and affordable alternative as 'pop-up-libraries' in communities where static libraries are not viable.

Mobile libraries provide an opportunity for Council to develop partnerships and expand the scope of library services. Community organisations, educational institutions, businesses and neighbouring councils are identified as potential partners or sponsors.

Examples of successful mobile libraries which can provide inspiration for Narrabri Shire Libraries include:

#### **Murrindindi Shire Council**

Mobile libraries have also been used for disaster recovery support. The Murrindindi Mobile Library was utilised as a community information and support post during the devastating fires of 2009, as well as providing much needed library services to affected residents. Murrindindi Shire Council have now formalised the role of the mobile in emergency relief as part of its Code Red Day policy and procedures.



Murrindindi Mobile Library (Source: Murrindindi Shire Council)

#### **Macquarie Regional Library Mobile Library**

Macquarie Regional Library's mobile library (MOLI) is a joint service operated by the Library and TAFE NSW Western Institute. MOLI provided library and information services to rural and isolated areas in the northwest of NSW. Customers of the service included community patrons, single teacher schools, central schools and high schools, and TAFE students in the North West cluster of the Western Institute of TAFE. The Mobile Library also visited Wongarbron, Geurie and Stuart Town, monthly, within the Regional Library's service region.

#### **Blacktown City Library**

The Mobile Library is a service from Blacktown City Libraries, reaching out to those who commute early in the morning and being there in those places where local people gather and might not be able to get to one of the other Blacktown City libraries .

Blacktown City Libraries' first six months of delivering books via the new Mobile Library has been successful. With many new developments and suburbs on the rise due to Blacktown being one of the largest and fastest growing local government areas, the Mobile Library has been servicing large community areas such as Marsden Park without nearby library facilities.



Blacktown City Mobile Library (Source: Landcom)





## DESIGNING WITH COUNTRY

*Embedding First Nations cultures through design*

### **GANSW Connecting with Country**

The NSW Government Architect's Connecting with Country Draft Framework is a framework for developing connections with Country that can inform the planning, design, and delivery of built environment projects. The Framework is accompanied by a Designing with Country discussion paper that encourages stakeholders to respond to Aboriginal cultural connections to Country when they are designing and planning new projects. Importantly, the discussion paper notes that designing with Country is not possible without engaging with, and more importantly, being guided by First Nation's communities and recognised knowledge holders.

The Narrabri SAP can consider best practice principles in Designing with Country to design and upgrade public spaces that are inclusive or centred on First Nation's cultures.

Examples of Designing with Country include:

### **Rainbow Serpent Water Feature, Gunnedah**

The Gunnedah Rainbow Serpent Water Feature is a large seating area in a shape and design that symbolises and pays respect to the traditional Kamilaroi story of the Rainbow Serpent. The water feature is located in front of Gunnedah's Cultural Precinct.

The water feature won the 2020 Australian Street Art Award in the category of Best Rural Art.



Gunnedah Rainbow Serpent Water Feature (Source: Visit NSW)

### **Midjuburi Meeting Rooms, Inner West Sydney**

The Midjuburi Meeting Room (formerly Steel Park Community Rooms) are located in a small two storey building at the entrance to the PCYC in Marrickville. Construction of the building was completed in November 2019 and has been designed in collaboration with and for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

There are two rooms available for hire (one per level) of 25m<sup>2</sup> in size each. Hire of the facility is free for First Nations Peoples. Murals on the outside of the building were completed by an Aboriginal artist and have contributed to a sense of place and increased the visibility of the Aboriginal culture in the local area. A seating area outside allows for casual gathering and socialising.



Midjuburi Meeting Room, Steel Park Inner West Council (Source: Cred Consulting)





## BIRIPAI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION MEDICAL CENTRE, TAREE NSW

*Multi-layer, Aboriginal community controlled and culturally appropriate health service.*

The Biripai APMC was established in 1981 and is a multi-layered, community controlled Aboriginal health organisation that provides culturally appropriate care. Their purpose is to improve the wellbeing of the Aboriginal people within the Biripai Nation area through engaging, empowering providing knowledge, skills, belief, support & hope.

Based in Taree and each of the clinics that Biripai provides at Purfleet & Bushland Clinic provides a comprehensive range of multidisciplinary primary health care services. These services are delivered by teams of doctors, nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, community liaison officers, receptionists, and a wide range of specialised and Allied health professionals.

Services include: Children services, aged care, dental and oral health, material health, and community support programs. Biripai also advocate for clients in the mainstream health system and transport clients to and from appointments and to manage chronic health issues.



Top: Biripai APMC building | Bottom: Event at Biripai APMC  
(Photo: Brett Boardman | Source: Archilovers.com)



## OUTDOOR SEATING

### *Outdoor learning and working spaces*

ChillOUT Hubs are open-air smart community spaces that offer seating and tables, shade, greenery, lighting, drinking fountains, public WIFI and device charging. ChillOUT Hubs won the Small Project category of the 2020 PIA NSW Award of Excellence. These hubs have been installed for testing at three sites, including a neighbourhood town centre and residential park, in the Georges River Council area in NSW.



Hub installed in Georges River (Source: Georges River Council)

### *Temporary seating to promote social interaction*

Pause pods are bespoke crafted concrete masonry blocks that arrive as blank canvases and are painted by local artists in collaboration with the community.

The City of Canterbury Bankstown introduced pause pods in five locations, and the Council-operated Bankstown Arts Centre worked closely with Sydney-based artists to facilitate community 'art jams' in which the pause pods were painted with community. Pause pods play an active role in encouraging community connection, sharing and engagement. Pause pods are cost effective, programmable and durable, and can be relocated as streets shift and change.



Pause Pods being painted (Source: Cred Consulting)



## FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL PRECINCT

### *First Nations best practices*

The Ngurra Cultural Precinct will be nationally significant in speaking to the central place that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold in Australia's story.

It will comprise two key and distinct elements:

- A National Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre with new and expanded facilities for AIATSIS that empower and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to tell their own stories and celebrate the 65,000-year history of this nation.
- A National Resting Place to house and care for repatriated limited provenance ancestral remains and any associated cultural material on their journey back to Country.

The Ngurra Cultural Precinct will sit on Country that is home to the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people who have lived for thousands of years amid a landscape of limestone plains, mountains, swamps and streams.

Two decades of consultations have identified the need for a National Resting Place that would replace existing facilities in museums, which do not — in the view of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples — provide culturally-appropriate facilities for caring for ancestral remains with limited provenance.

It will close the widely-acknowledged gap among the existing institutions. It will also build a shared understanding of our present and our future, furthering the national narrative of what it means to be an Australian.



Ngurra Precinct map (Source: Aiatsis)



## HERCULES STREET PARK, BRISBANE

### *A multi-purpose park*

The Northshore riverside park cost \$10 million to develop and was officially opened to the public in January 2020. It includes facilities such as:

- Kids playground
- Aquativity feature
- Outdoor gym/exercise area
- Multicourt play area
- Off leash dog park
- BBQs, toilets and shaded pergolas.

The large multi-sports court delivers 6 informal sports (inc. handball and half-court basketball). It has ping pong tables and seating adjacent completes this 'active zone', a rebound wall and bold colours create a visual statement to complement the active vibe of the space, and the considered use of colour and linework define areas and activity spaces.

The aquative play area is the waterfall/water misting area. This turns on randomly throughout the day, to get wet and cool off while it is running. This is particularly relevant for Narrabri given its rising heat challenges.



Hercules Street Park (Source: Good-design)





## BURWOOD PARK, BURWOOD

### *Recreational elements for a diverse community*

Burwood Park is a historical park located in the heart of Burwood withing only a five minute walk to the shops and Westfield. The park has a pleasant setting with open space and provided a great range of activities and attractions.

Burwood is home to a highly culturally-diverse population, and Burwood Park's activities/elements leverage the diverse community's recreational practices to activate the Park.

Community engagement with multicultural communities show that there is more appetite and desire for informal casual/social sport. Burwood Park's outdoor Table Tennis tables is actively used by the community and activates the area throughout the day. This also ensures the increased passive surveillance in the Park.

The parks in Narrabri can be improved to include varied elements to activate the parks and to ensure they are used day and night by different user groups.



Ping pong tables in Burwood Park (Source: Cred Consulting)



## BRISBANE RIVER OUTDOOR FITNESS STATION, BRISBANE CITY

### *Outdoor fitness station*

More than 170 of Brisbane City Council's parks have exercise equipment installed in them as part of a commitment to providing opportunities for residents to exercise and get fit outside for free.

In 2015, Council installed a series of outdoor fitness stations along the southern bank of the Brisbane River between Orleigh Park and Davies Park. These provide points of interest and opportunity for exercise along an important water-side active transport trail.

Each fitness station in the circuit is different, with some including simple, static equipment for chin-ups, sit-ups and step-ups as well as a larger area with interactive and movable equipment with cardio and resistance, particularly popular amongst older residents. Many pieces of equipment have instructions for use.

The FIFO worker community and their families are likely to be diverse and young and will require different types of outdoor fitness stations for active recreation.



Ping pong tables in Burwood Park (Source: Outdoor Design)





## PIUS X ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, MOREE

### Aboriginal services hub

Pius X Aboriginal Corporation is a welcoming, community focused organisation delivering culturally appropriate services and programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of the Aboriginal Community.

St Pius X Mission was founded in 1965 by the Roman Catholic Church and the Daughters of Charity. It was set up in an effort to make a Preschool and Medical Service more available to the Aboriginal Community of Moree. In 1984, in line with the Catholic Church's belief in self-management, an Aboriginal Management Committee was elected.

In 1987, the centre's name was changed to Pius X Aboriginal Corporation when official control was handed to the Aboriginal Management Committee by the Diocese of Armidale. Since then services and facilities have been expanded and improved to meet the needs of the Aboriginal Community. This includes the opening of the Dental Unit on the 6th February 1989.



### WE OFFER A Holistic Approach To Your Health Care



MEDICAL CLINIC



DENTAL CARE



PRE-SCHOOL



OUTREACH PROGRAMS



VISITING ALLIED HEALTH  
& SPECIALISTS



DRUG & ALCOHOL  
COUNSELLING



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL  
WELLBEING SESSIONS

Pius X Aboriginal Corporation (Source: PiusX)

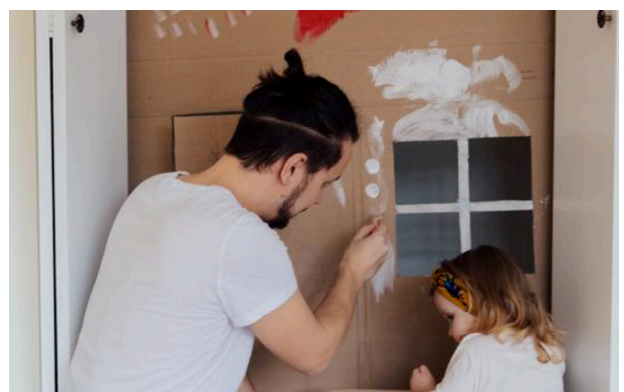


## TAMWORTH COMMUNITY HUB, TAMWORTH

### Community services

The Community Hub works with individuals, families and the wider Tamworth community - helping to connect community with relevant services, provide information, and organise events that bring communities together.

- The Hub offers a variety of programs such as:
- Children and family programs
- Housing help programs
- Domestic and family violence programs
- Youth programs
- Community support programs, and
- Groupwork.



TFSS Community Hub (Source: TFSS)

## 8.2. Detailed strategic context analysis

Over 24 global, national, regional and local policies and strategies were reviewed to identify drivers, themes and opportunities relating to social and community infrastructure for the Narrabri SAP. They have been categorised in this section under key themes.

### Public open space and recreation needs

There is a strong strategic focus to position regional areas, including Narrabri, as attractive and welcoming places to live and work.

Regional strategies highlight the need to enhance the appeal and liveability of the Region through ongoing improvements to the presentation of the towns and villages and improving and expanding the Region's sporting, recreational and cultural facilities to retain residents and attract workers.

There is significant opportunity to further develop existing open space and recreational areas, and to promote the natural and conservation areas that surround Narrabri. This also presents opportunities to develop community activities and social interaction through open space.

Relevant strategies and actions across policies:

- **Narrabri Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027**
  - 1.2 Our vibrant country lifestyle will be enhanced through embracing our recreational and cultural diversity
  - 1.2.1 Major towns have attractive and welcoming CBD areas that provide opportunities for social interaction
  - 1.3 Our communities will be provided with facilities and services to increase connectivity and accessibility
  - 1.3.3 All towns and villages have access to at least one quality meeting place to facilitate social gathering
  - 2.1 We will maintain our open spaces, natural environment and heritage for future generations
- **Narrabri Shire Sport, Recreation and Open Space Plan 2017 - 2032**
  - The purpose is to encourage opportunities to increase participation in sport and recreation by a broad cross-section of the community.
  - Priorities areas for the Narrabri township include public swimming pools, parks, lighting, developing a walking and cycling loop, an amenities block, indoor sports facilities, and water recreation.
- **Narrabri Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040**
  - Planning Priority 8: Provide for healthy communities

- Recognise public space outcomes as essential elements of development
- Promote physical and mental wellbeing through green places
- **Narrabri Shire Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 - 2021**
  - Strategy 2: Creating liveable communities
  - 2.1 All capital works projects will incorporate upgrades that are consistent with inclusion and accessibility requirements
  - 2.2 Ensure inclusion and accessibility requirements are examined when improving children's playgrounds
  - 2.4 Improve library services to support an autism-friendly environment, home library services, IT training and provision of special collections
- **Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018 - 2022**
  - Strategy C: Enhance the appeal and liveability of the Region through ongoing improvements to the presentation of the towns and villages and improving and expanding the Region's sporting, recreational and cultural facilities to retain residents.
- **Regional NSW Youth Framework and Action Plan**
  - 4.2 Young people have increased access to a variety of youth-appropriate activities
- **New England North West Regional Action Plan 2036**
  - Goal 2: A healthy environment with pristine waterways

### Community facilities and services

Across local and regional strategies, there is a strong focus towards designing community spaces that celebrate local identities and foster community connectedness.

Relevant strategies and actions across policies:

- **Narrabri Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027**
  - 1.1 Community health, safety and support services will adequately meet changing community needs
  - 1.1.1 Support and encourage health and wellbeing programs and services to improve resident lifestyles
  - 1.1.2 Child and aged care supply meet community

needs

- 3.4 Adequate housing options will be available to meet demands across the Shire
- 4.3 Infrastructure and service delivery will provide public value for the community
- **Narrabri Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040**
  - Planning Priority 9: Manage and enhance the distinctive character of towns
  - Planning Priority 11: Protect non-Aboriginal heritage
- **Regional NSW Youth Framework and Action Plan**
  - Priority area 2: Wellbeing - Young people are mentally and physically healthy, safe and thrive in their communities
  - 2.3 Young people have access to culturally and youth-appropriate services
  - Priority area 3: Connectivity - Young people have transport and digital connectivity solutions to access training, work, services and recreational activities
  - 3.3 Young people are able to access services without travelling long distances
  - Priority area 4: Community - Young people are given the opportunities to explore their creativity, collaborate with others, develop a sense of achievement and feel socially and culturally connected to, and included in, their communities
  - 4.3 Young people feel safe in, connected to, and valued by their communities and connected to their culture
- **New England North West Regional Action Plan 2036**
  - Goal 3: Strong infrastructure and transport networks for a connected future
  - Goal 4: Attractive and thriving communities
  - Priority area for Narrabri includes delivering a variety of housing options in Narrabri
- **NSW Regional Development Framework**
  - 1. Providing quality services and infrastructure in regional NSW, ensuring a baseline set of services across regional NSW
- **Greener Places 2020**
  - 3.3 Design spaces that foster interaction and stewardship, community identity, sense of connectedness and community capacity
- **NSW Housing Strategy 2041**
  - Vision 4: Improved alignment of housing with infrastructure and community services for NSW communities by establishing and implementing strategic planning principles at the state and local level, effectively supporting how people want to live now and into the future
  - Aligning land use, transport and infrastructure planning across NSW by establishing and implementing strategic planning principles at the

state and local level to deliver improved services to communities that meet current and future need

## Increase access to education and training opportunities

Across all levels of government, strategies highlight the need to address skills gaps in regional areas, including the Narrabri Shire.

In particular, there is a strong focus on supporting young people in regional areas to ensure they have access to high quality education, meaningful work and feel part of inclusive communities.

A key target under the Geographic Direction for Regional NSW directions is to strengthen growing regions to ensure education infrastructure and technology are comparable to that in Greater Sydney. There is a need to provide high quality tertiary education without the need for regional residents to relocate.

There is significant opportunity to position Narrabri as an educational hub for the region. To support this, sufficient educational infrastructure and partnerships will be required.

Relevant strategies and actions across policies:

- **Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018 - 2022**
  - Strategy C: Invest in people, skills, community and lifestyle to address the Region's skills gaps
  - Improve and expand education, health and other services throughout the Region to tackle the access to quality education, and issue identified in community consultation.
  - Ensure that vocation training programs and training facilities are aligned with existing and likely future needs of the Region.
- **New England North West Regional Action Plan 2036**
  - Support economic diversification including up skilling health and education workers
- **Regional NSW Youth Framework and Action Plan**
  - Young people have better access to great education and training opportunities
- **Narrabri Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027**
  - Youth of the Shire are engaged and supported through the provision of adequate programs and training services to facilitate the retention of our young people
  - A diverse range of quality learning options will be available to improve knowledge and skills within the community
  - Improve access to learning options for mature residents
  - Leverage off established research facilities to grow



industry training hubs

- **Narrabri Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040**
  - Planning Priority 12: Education and research
  - 12.1 Prepare a Precinct Plan in consultation with Federal and State Government representatives to develop a Country Education Hub in Narrabri to service the North-West Region.
- **Narrabri Shire Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017 - 2021**
  - Supporting access to meaningful employment

### Support local economies and tourism

Local and regional strategies highlight the need to activate local economies and address the skilled labour gap in regional areas. Accordingly, there is a strong strategic focus to position and promote the Narrabri Shire as an attractive location to live and work.

Across levels of government, cultural and nature based tourism is identified as an important opportunity for economic and social development. The NSW Government's Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+ commits to rejuvenating towns and increasing opportunities for regional tourism and the visitor economy.

There are significant opportunities to build the tourism sector and visibilise cultural and natural attractions across the Narrabri Shire. Ensuring social and cultural infrastructure is in place to develop these opportunities will be important for Narrabri's regional development.

This would be of particular importance to the Narrabri SAP area considering the high proportion of Fly In Fly Out (FIFO) workers who will be living and working in the area during the construction of major projects. Post construction, many workers will stay or move to the Narrabri area who are likely to be employed for the operations and maintenance of the industries.

Relevant strategies and actions across policies:

- **Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018 - 2022**
  - Strategy B: Encourage investment, increased productivity and value adding
  - Position and promote the region as an attractive location to live and work in order to address the skilled labour gap.
- **New England North West Regional Action Plan 2036**
  - Goal 1: A strong and dynamic regional economy
  - Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism places and enhance visitor experiences.
- **NSW Regional Development Framework**
  - Identifying and activating economic potential by looking across regional NSW for opportunities to activate local economies.

- **NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+**
  - Goal 16: Support regional economic and social development
- **NSW Women's Strategy 2018 - 2022**
  - Economic opportunity and advancement - We will create employment opportunities across occupations and industries where women remain underrepresented.
  - Explore ways to make NSW the best place to work for women with children, including greater access to childcare and reducing disincentives to workforce participation.
  - Boost the number of skilled women construction workers and the number of women in trade-related work.
- **Narrabri Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027**
  - We will stimulate business and tourism by maximising our assets and attracting regional events.

### Promote local arts and culture

Local and regional strategies acknowledge that a strong arts and cultural sector can lead to community and economic development. There is increasing focus to expand on arts and culture in regional areas, including the Narrabri Shire.

Council recognise that access to arts and cultural activities can foster a strong community identity, improve community wellbeing, and assist in protecting and preserving heritage and cultural assets.

Council also highlight that arts and cultural activities can diversify and enhance the attraction, activity and experience base of the Narrabri Shire for the benefit of both residents and visitors.

There are significant opportunities for social and cultural infrastructure to support the NSW Government's commitment for regional economic and social development by creating jobs, attracting visitors and making our regional cities more liveable.

Relevant strategies and actions across policies:

- **Narrabri Shire Arts and Cultural Policy**
  - 2.2 Encourage the protection, preservation and promotion of heritage assets within the Shire and encourage 'telling of stories'
  - 4.5 Integrate arts and culture into the economic development and marketing and promotion of the Shire
  - 5.1 Encourage, facilitate and support the development of a strong and sustainable creative industries sector
  - 6.1 Develop contemporary arts space / gallery with Narrabri Shire

- 7.6 Work with local artists and communities on joint ventures and activities
- **Narrabri Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027**
  - 1.2 Our vibrant country lifestyle will be enhanced through embracing our recreational and cultural diversity
  - 1.2.2. Promote and support the development of and access to creative arts
- **NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+**
  - Strategic Priority 2: Access to space for community participation in culture
  - Goal 4: Increase access to cultural infrastructure for all people in NSW
  - Strategic priority 3: Cultural infrastructure for a collaborative and thriving cultural sector
  - Goal 7: Increase making space through adaptive re-use, expansion and maintenance of existing infrastructure.
  - Goal 8: Invest in new, fit-for-purpose infrastructure for the cultural sector
  - Goal 9: Support and invest in sustainable cultural infrastructure
  - Geographic Priority 2: Cultural infrastructure leverages the diversity and unique cultural identities of NSW
  - Goal 16: Support regional economic and social development
- and local plans to protect Aboriginal heritage and recognise the contribution of cultural heritage values to the character and landscape of the region
- Consider relevant Heritage NSW and Government Architect NSW's publications as part of carrying out the actions associated with this Planning Priority.
- **Narrabri Shire Arts and Cultural Policy**
  - Acknowledge the Kamilaroi People as the traditional custodians of the land that Narrabri Shire encompasses
  - Celebrate our heritage - both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
- **NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+**
  - Goal 6: Cultural infrastructure supports the economic and social participation of Aboriginal people (links to the OCHRE Plan)
- **Greener Places**
  - 2.3 Design networks that serve humans and wildlife and link physical sites that support ecological, wildlife and social connectivity.

## Connecting to Country

As per the Narrabri Shire Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH) Study Report 2020, the Narrabri LGA falls within the traditional lands associated with the Kamilaroi people. As of 2016, the Narrabri Shire LGA was home to 12% of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) peoples, which is significantly higher than NSW 3% and Australia 3%. The ACH Study records numerous sites of Aboriginal significance across the LGA.

The high ATSI population and Aboriginal significance in the landscape indicates there is an opportunity to explore and demonstrate ways of Connecting to Country in a regional and SAP context. This will be further explored along with the Aboriginal consultants of the project.

Relevant strategies and actions across policies:

- **Narrabri Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017 - 2027**
  - 1.2.4 Promote and support reconciliation in partnership with the Aboriginal community
- **Narrabri Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040**
  - Planning Priority 10: Protect Aboriginal culture and heritage
  - Protect, manage and respect Aboriginal cultural heritage
  - Adopt appropriate measures in planning strategies

## 8.3. Population benchmark standards

Table 5 - Population benchmark standards

Social infrastructure types		
Public facilities	Benchmarks	Source
LIBRARY	(Branch library - 1 per 15,000 people)	Coffs Harbour Community and Cultural Facilities Plan
COMMUNITY FACILITIES	FLOORSPACE (80 m <sup>2</sup> per 1,000 people)	Newcastle Community Facilities Strategy 2014
	LOCAL (1 per 5,000 people)	Coffs Harbour Community and Cultural Facilities Plan
	DISTRICT (1 per 20,000 people)	
CULTURAL FACILITY	REGIONAL (1 per 100,000 people)	
	DISTRICT (1 per 30,000 people)	
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE	Long day care (1 place per 5 children 0-4 years, 1 place per 2 children 2-5 years)	Port Stephens Council _Kings Hill URA Rec Study
	OSHC (1 place per 5 children 5-11 years)	Port Stephens Council _Kings Hill URA Rec Study
SCHOOL	Primary	Schools Infrastructure NSW
	High	
EMERGENCY SERVICES	Fire station (1 per 20,000 people)	Growth Centres Commision
	Police Station (1 per 20,000 people)	
HOSPITAL BEDS	3 beds per 1,000 people	
YOUTH CENTRE	1per 3,000 young people aged 12 to 17 years	Wollongong Social Infrastructure Strategy 2018
Public open spaces		
PARKS	Number of people (2.8 ha per 1,000 people)	Parks and Leisure Australia 2012
	Local parks (0.4 ha per 1,000 people)	Port Stephens Council _Kings Hill URA Rec Study
	District parks (0.6 ha per 1,000 people)	
	Regional parks (0.25 ha per 1,000 people)	
AQUATIC FACILITIES	Regional (1 per 20,000 to 50,000 people)	
PLAY SPACES	District (1 per 25,000 people)	Newcastle Parks and Recreation Strategy, 2014
	Local (1 per 2,000 people)	
INDOOR SPORTS CENTRE	District (1 per 20,000 to 50,000 people)	
OUTDOOR RECREATION	Outdoor multi-purpose courts (1 per 10,000 people)	
	Fitness equipment (1 per 15,000 people)	
	Skate facilities (1 per 25,000 people)	
	Dog parks (1 per 50,000 people)	Parks and Leisure Australia 2012



