



LITCHFIELD COUNCIL SPORT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

Final Draft Report | December 2020

LITCHFIELD
COUNCIL



OTIUM
Planning group
SPORT + LEISURE



HEAD OFFICE

304/91 Murphy Street

Richmond VIC 3121

p (03) 9698 7300

e info@otiumplanning.com.au

w www.otiumplanning.com.au

ABN: 30 605 962 169

ACN: 605 962 169

LOCAL OFFICE

Suite 44, 5 Faculty Close

Smithfield QLD 4878

Contact: Martin Lambert

p (07) 4055 6250

e cairns@otiumplanning.com.au

OTIUM PLANNING GROUP OFFICES

- « Brisbane
- « Cairns
- « Melbourne
- « New Zealand
- « Perth
- « Sydney

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Otium Planning Group acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal, Torres Strait and South Sea Islander peoples of this nation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our company is located and where we conduct our business. We pay our respects to ancestors and to Elders, past, present and emerging.

Otium is committed to national reconciliation and respect for indigenous peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas, and their rich contribution to society.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Litchfield Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy aims to provide Council with a clear guide to the planning, development, and management of sport and recreation opportunities for the community. This strategy has been prepared based on a review of relevant documents; discussions with Councillors and council staff; analysis of the trends in sport and recreation participation; a review of current provision and engagement with the community, reserve stakeholders, sporting users, peak sport bodies and Territory Government Agencies.

This research and analysis led to the development of a provision framework, to guide planning and provision of sport, recreation and open space.

Sport and Recreation Provision Framework

REGIONAL - COUNCIL WIDE PROVISION



Competition level playing surface and lighting for each facility type.



Access to an event space for major events



Access to cultural/ community/ library



Competition Equestrian facilities



Access to an aquatic facility



Access to an indoor court facility

TOWNSHIP LEVEL PROVISION

(access within 10 minutes drive to cover 80% of the population)



Township Recreation

- « Access to training field and junior competition space
- « Access to multi-use court
- « Access to a youth space/ activity area
- « Access to a community meeting space/ hall (in the long term to be air conditioned)
- « Access to picnic facilities and play spaces for younger children
- « Access to active recreation opportunities (e.g. trails/ exercise stations)
- « Access to local community events outdoor space



Nature Based Recreation

- « Access to walking and riding trails
- « Access to picnic facilities in natural areas

URBAN RESIDENTIAL AREAS PROVISION

(90% of urban areas to have access within 500 m safe walking)



Walking access to local park of a minimum size of 0.5 Ha



Walking access to a local play space



Access to picnic facilities



Local Park must provide access to water, have good road frontage (preferred 50%)

The framework has been used to assess provision across the council area and to categorise the existing reserves and their primary role.

There are a number of more detailed recommendations in regard to reserves and sport and recreation provision that are discussed in Section 8.

1.1. THE LITCHFIELD CONTEXT

A number of recommendations have been developed to address areas of under provision, propose strategies for improving existing assets, working with key partners to share provision and finding cost effective and sustainable ways to meet community need. These have been developed having regard to the unique context of the Litchfield Council and its communities.

- « Litchfield covers a large area and has a **mix of rural, township and urban areas** and different standards of service are needed to reflect this diversity.
- « The proposed urban development in the Holtze area means a **significant growth in population** and demand for sport and recreation facilities.
- « There are a number of high-level sport and recreation opportunities available in Palmerston and Darwin which do not need to be duplicated in Litchfield. However for some sports such as equestrian, the **peak facility** is within Litchfield.
- « Provision of sport and recreation has historically been in partnership with the local community and others and this **spirit of community and council partnership** is a strength to be built upon.
- « The focus of past provision has been on larger multi-purpose reserves which has encouraged **sharing of resources** and created focal points for the community.
- « Like elsewhere, **participation patterns and activity demands are changing** as populations change, the council grows and other trends impact on preferences.
- « There are multiple **pressures on council resources and competition for priorities**. Not all recommendations can be delivered without external funding and other partnerships. This includes in some cases, delivery of the desired service standards expressed in the provision framework, where a capital investment is required and partnership with government agencies is essential to source adequate funds.

1.2. OUR VISION AND PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Sport and Recreation is an important part of the Litchfield lifestyle. The provision of sport, recreation and parkland opportunities provide health, social and economic benefits to the community. Litchfield Council will work closely with the community and other levels of government to provide well-planned, co-ordinated and integrated facilities and programs that stimulate community involvement and participation.

1.2.1. Planning Principles

- « **A holistic planning approach** – sport and recreation crosses over many areas of Council governance and provides a broad range of benefits. It should not be managed in isolation.
- « **Access and equity** – all members of the community will have the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation.
- « **Innovation** – seeking innovative solutions to new challenges that emerge due to population change and sport and recreation trends.
- « **Minimise duplication of resources** – efficient use of community assets to meet needs is a core principle and if possible, it is not desirable to duplicate facilities for sport and recreation including those provided by Territory Government Departments such as Education.
- « **Environmental and economic sustainability** – ensuring sport and recreation initiatives preserve natural resources, achieve sustainable environmental outcomes and support the local economy.
- « **Responsible asset management** – a sustainable approach to sport and recreation asset management with a focus on supporting multi-use and shared facilities and being financially viable.
- « **Social and cultural wellbeing** – using sport and recreation as a vehicle for bringing the community together and providing opportunities for social interaction and healthy lifestyles.
- « **Positive partnerships with individuals and groups** – working collaboratively with the community, government agencies, sport and recreation bodies and the private sector in planning provision and management of sport and recreation.

1.3. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are key recommendations arising from the strategy. Additional detail is contained in Section 8.

1

Council should adopt a new integrated Sport and Recreation Policy that details the provision framework for sport and recreation, the role of Council and community groups and the process for prioritising action. A draft Policy Outline is contained in Appendix One.

2

Council should continue to work with Reserve Committees and the local community to develop, adopt and implement master plans for the reserves. These plans should include both long term spatial planning and strategic planning for the sport and recreation uses. (Recommendations for each reserve are contained in Section 8.4)

3

Community involvement and community groups are critical to delivering sport and recreation in Litchfield and a program to support clubs and committees to continue to develop skills and capacity should be developed and implemented in partnership with peak sport bodies and the NTG.

4

Freds Pass should continue to be planned and invested in as the main regional facility for Litchfield. Additional spatial planning should be undertaken with the Reserve Management Committee to have a single integrated plan for future development and to assist in securing funds from other levels of government.

5

Provision of an outdoor court sports precinct should be progressed in partnership with tennis, netball and basketball. Planning for this should include development of a sustainable model based on the potential management of the precinct by a peak spot body such as tennis.

6

There are number of locations where desired provision outcomes have not been met. This includes access to local parks in urban areas, access to sports fields, outdoor courts and youth spaces. Meeting these shortfalls in provision requires a number of strategies including better community access to school fields and courts, further investment in some reserves and partnership with NTG to address issues in some new development areas. Priority areas are Coolalinga and Southport.

7

In the longer term, with population growth from new development areas, a multi-purpose sport, recreation and community centre should be considered. This could provide a library, cultural and events centre, indoor courts and a pool. A feasibility study and business case should be prepared to enable access to external funding.

2. INTRODUCTION

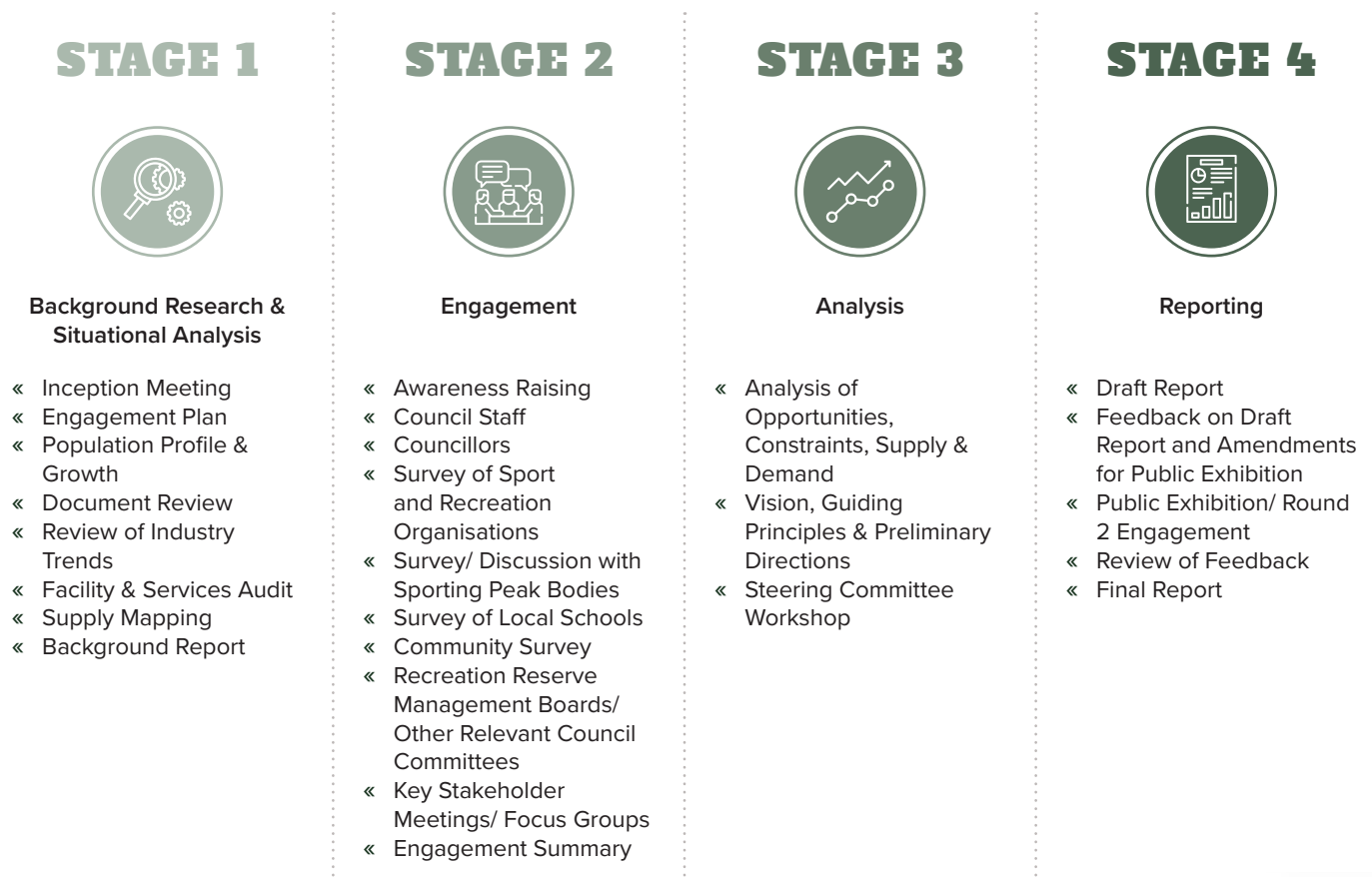
Litchfield is located approximately 45 km from Darwin's CBD and forms the rural fringe of the greater Darwin region, primarily comprised of rural residential housing. Litchfield has a strong history in sport and recreation, which it has become an integral part of the community. Litchfield Council wants to build on this history with the development of this Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy.

The Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy is accompanied by a Background Report that details the findings of the document review and stakeholder and community engagement activities.

2.1. STUDY METHODOLOGY

To develop this strategy the following project methodology was used.

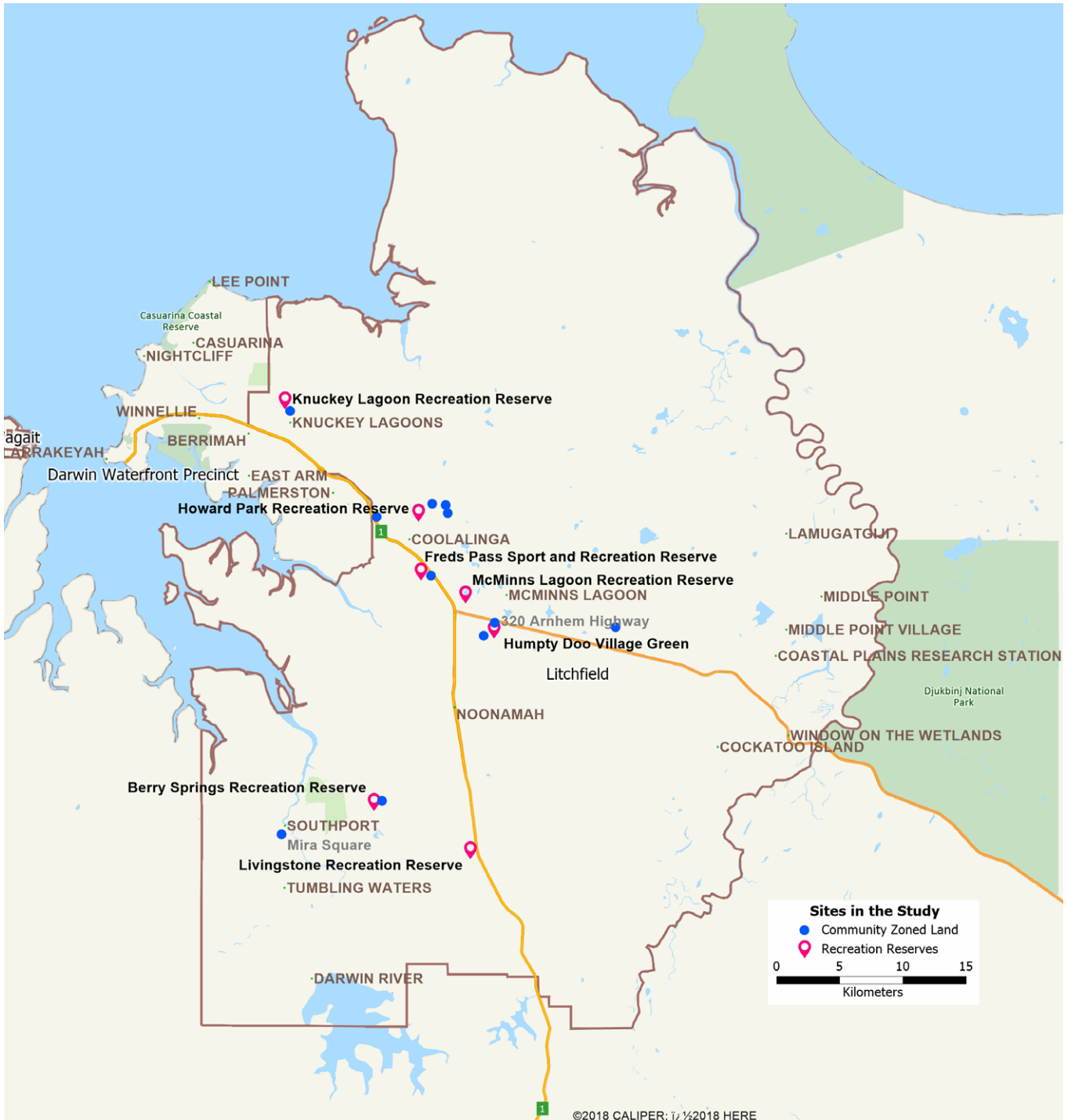
Figure 1: Study Methodology



2.2. FACILITY LOCATIONS

The study reviewed the seven sport and recreation reserves (shown as pink pins in the figure below) and investigated potential future sites for sport and recreation use (shown as blue dots) that are public land and suitably zoned.

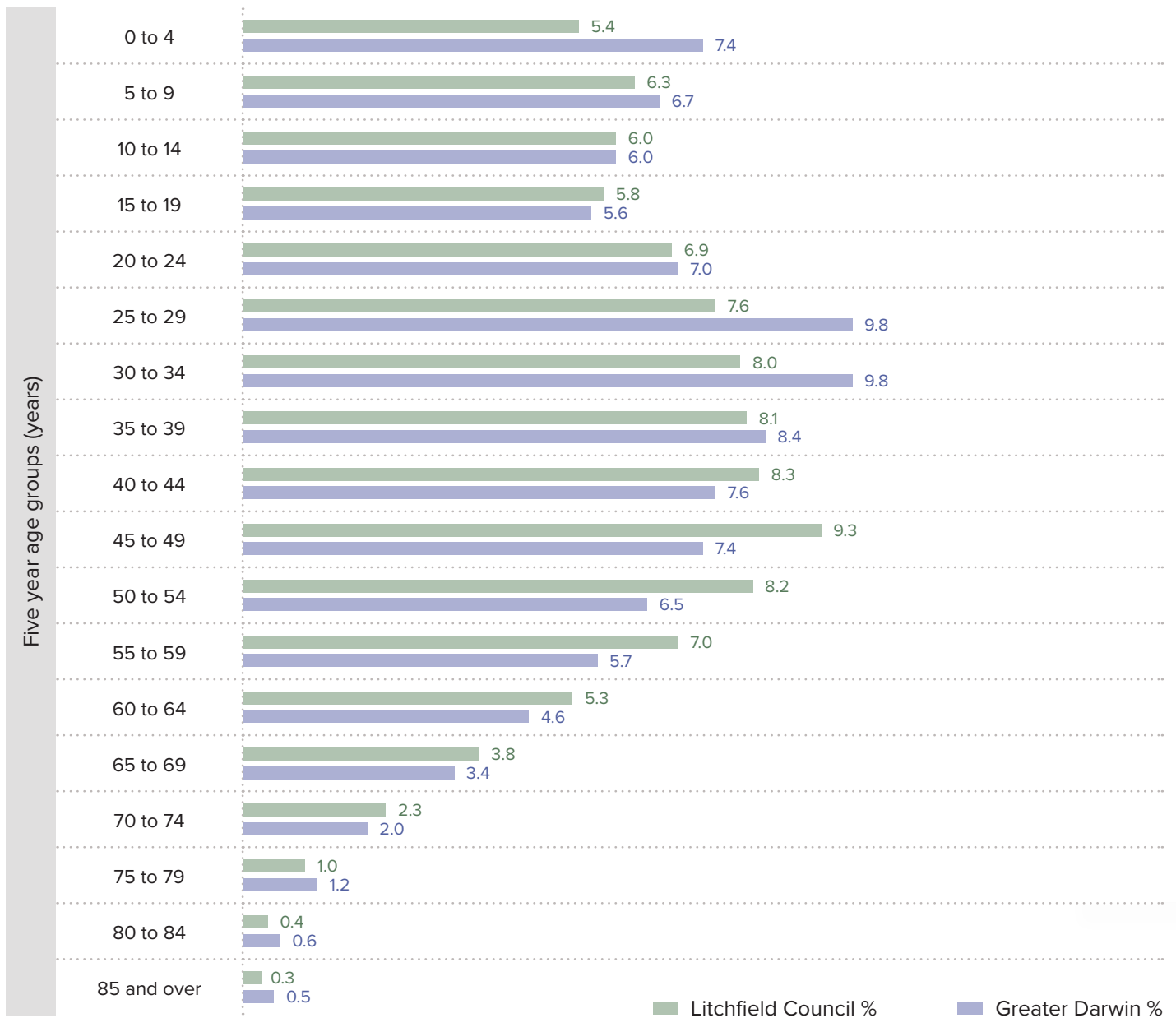
Figure 2: Reserve Sites in the Study Area



3. POPULATION ANALYSIS

The Litchfield Council area covers approximately 3,100 Km², which includes large areas of uninhabited land, including the Koolpinyah Forest. The latest population estimate (2019) was 25,561¹, which is an increase of 5,343 since 2011. There are significantly more males in Litchfield than females (59.4% to 40.6%), and an increasing indigenous population, which currently accounts for 1.1% of the population.

Table 1: Population Age Cohorts



When compared to the Greater Darwin area there is a significantly higher proportion of residents aged 40-64 (38.1% in Litchfield and 31.8% in Greater Darwin). There are also significantly less people aged 25-39 (23.7% in Litchfield and 28% in Greater Darwin). It will be important to consider these cohorts together, as the 25-39 age cohort is typically the main participants in traditional organised sport, while the older cohort is moving towards more unstructured and individual pursuits of sport and recreation.

¹ <https://profile.id.com.au/litchfield>

3.1. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

The Northern Territory Department of Treasury and Finance projects that the Litchfield Community will increase to 35,598 by 2036. This is expected to be a gradual increase of 1.5% - 2.0% every five years. The majority of this growth will be from the non-indigenous cohort, which will increase its growth rate from 0.8% in 2021 to 1.9% in 2036, while the indigenous population will grow at a higher rate, the rate of growth halves over the next decade and a half from 5.0% in 2021 to 2.6% by 2036.



ESTIMATED POPULATION BY 2036

35,598



GRADUAL INCREASE EVERY 5 YEARS

1.5% - 2.0%



Fred's Pass Reserve



Howard Park Reserve

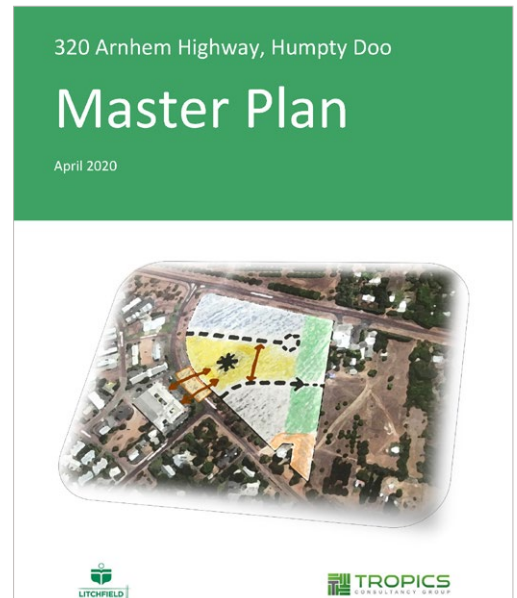
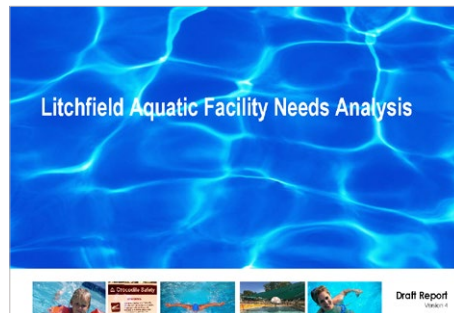
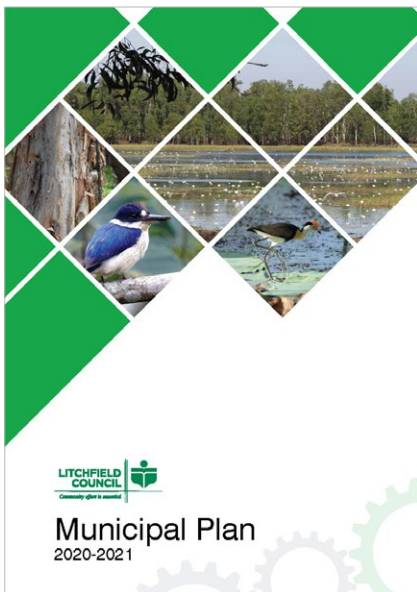
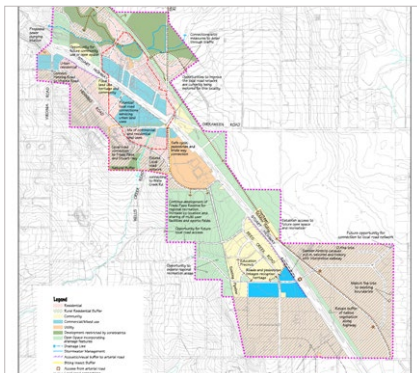


McMinns Lagoon

4. BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The list below details the documents that were reviewed to ensure the Strategy aligned with existing Council documents, State Sporting Plans and State Government documents. A detailed analysis of these reports can be found in the supporting Background Report.

320 Arnhem Highway, Humpty Doo Master Plan 2020, Litchfield Council	2020 Advocacy Plan, Litchfield Council 2020
Aquatics Needs Analysis Report 2017, Litchfield Council	Humpty Doo Rural Activity Centre, NT Planning Commission 2018
Freds Pass Reserve Master Plan 2018-2027	Proposal to amend NT Planning Scheme – Coolalinga/Freds Pass Area Plan
Litchfield Council Municipal Plan 2020-2021, Litchfield Council, 2020	Mira Square Master Plan, Litchfield Council 2020
Litchfield Strategic Plan 2018-2022, Litchfield Council	Holtze Kowandi North Social Infrastructure Assessment, Fyfe 2020



5. SPORT AND RECREATION IN LITCHFIELD

The Northern Territory has a planning system where the Territory Government is responsible for the land use planning, including detailing the location of land for community use, including sport and recreation. Council has limited influence over the location of land designated for these uses, which is evident in the lack of parks and open space activation in the urban development area of Coolalinga.

For Council's part, the management of the seven recreation reserves falls under one of two models, Council managed or leased. The reserves that are Council managed are maintained, booked and promoted by Council. All financial costs associated with the reserve are Council's responsibility. This includes Knuckeys Lagoon and Howard Park Reserve.

Council has established an advisory committee to provide input to Council for the development of these reserves. These committee's operate under a terms of reference which has a purpose to:

- « Provide advice on the efficient and effective operations of the reserve
- « Provide advice to council concerning strategic or policy issues relating to the reserve
- « Enhance communication between Council and the community to ensure that the reserve meets community expectations and needs

The roles and responsibilities include:

- « To provide advice and make recommendations to Council on the future direction and development
- « To oversee the operational management of the Reserve
- « To inform and involve all key stakeholders to promote partnerships addressing community need
- « To comply with all relevant Council policies relating to the care, protection and management of Knuckey Lagoon
- « To promote effective co-operation and communication with all user groups
- « To prioritise and submit recommendations for Council's annual capital works program and grant opportunities

The second model involves leasing to independent associations who become the reserve management "Boards" . These associations have their own constitutions and are incorporated entity's. These boards are responsible for the day to day running of the reserves, facility maintenance and improvements and grant applications. Council provides funding to support their role, and is in the process of finalising leases with the committee boards. These reserves include, Freds Pass, Livingstone, Berry Springs, McMinns Lagoon and Humpty Doo Village Green.²



Freds Pass Reserve

² At the time of writing, there was some uncertainty about the future management of Humpty Doo Village Green and this may revert to Council.

5.1. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There were a number of engagement activities that were undertaken to inform the development of the strategy. The aim of the engagement program was to establish the community's needs and priorities for sport and recreation in the future; to understand the current state of play in Litchfield including the plans, barriers and opportunities that clubs, users and management committees experience and identifying opportunities that may be available with peak sporting organisations and; the Northern Territory Government. The findings for each reserve can be found in section 6, for each reserve.

The activities that were undertaken included:



Community Survey



Club and User group



School Survey



Interviews with
Peak Sporting
Organisations



Workshops with

- Councillors
- Council Staff
- Reserve Management Committees
- Department of Sport, Tourism and Culture

5.2. PEAK SPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Key Peak Sporting Organisations were consulted to understand their view regarding strategic direction of sport in Litchfield. The table below details the specific implications from the consultation.

Table 2: SSO Consultation Feedback

STATE SPORTING BODY	STRATEGIC DIRECTION
Netball Northern Territory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Ideally any development of courts in Litchfield should be a 4-6 court facility to ensure that the development can cope with future demand. « There is potentially suitable space available at Freds Pass and this would be the preferred development site. « Netball NT encourages more collaboration with the Palmerston Netball Association in the short term as Freds Pass is not a short-term priority for the State body. « Netball NT encourages more communication between the local club and the peak body.
Rugby League NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « There is a need for a second senior field at Freds Pass. Rugby League NT noted that there have been difficulties in the line marking with Athletics « Rugby League noted that there may be other opportunities to share access to increase field usage across Freds Pass. « Want to ensure the club facilities at Freds Pass are to standard.
Northern Territory Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Investigating potential feasibility of a 5-6 court facility. Tennis NT have indicated that they would be willing to manage the facility, which is a model they operate in other locations. « Freds Pass has been suggested as a potential location. « Tennis NT are willing to look at a shared facility accommodating other sports (netball/basketball) with community access through the book-a-court system. « Tennis NT Prefers a model where a facility can be used by like-minded groups.
AFL NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « The priority in the Litchfield LGA is to secure lighting for the AFL field. at Freds Pass. This is to assist with the scheduling of home games. « AFL NT are focusing on establishing a new site in Woodroffe and that is their number one priority at present.

6. RESERVES IN LITCHFIELD

There are seven formal recreation reserves in Litchfield Council area, all of which offer a unique opportunity to the local community and the broader region. These reserves provide opportunities that include, but are not limited to, sports grounds, BMX/ pump tracks, skate parks, playgrounds, community halls, pavilions parks and court sports. This section details the findings of the consultation with Council, the community, user groups and the management boards and the site audits. It then details the opportunities and constraints at each site.

6.1. FREDS PASS SPORT AND RECREATION RESERVE

Figure 3: Freds Pass Aerial



6.1.1. Site Details

Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve is the region's largest sporting precinct, and currently caters for a wide range of sports. Currently the site covers 80.2 Ha and services the following sports, fields and facilities:

Table 3: Freds Pass Sporting Provision

SPORT/ ACTIVITY	FIELDS/ SURFACES	FACILITIES
Cricket	« 1 x Oval	« Clubhouse « Change rooms
AFL	« 1 x Oval	« Clubhouse « Sealed Car Park
Rugby League	« 1 x Senior Field « 1 x Junior Field	« Clubhouse
Soccer	« 2 x senior Field	« Clubhouse « Ablution block
Rugby Union	« 2 x Senior Field	« Clubhouse « Sealed Car Park
Athletics	« Grass Athletics Track (shared with Rugby League junior field) « Long Jump Pit « Throwing cage	
Polocrosse	« 7 x Polocrosse fields	« Clubhouse
Equestrian Sports	« Undercover Arena « Dressage Area	« Clubhouse « Storage facilities
Positive Dog Club	« Main Arena (share the use of the equestrian arena)	« Clubhouse
Archery	« Archery Range	« Clubhouse
Paintball (commercial provider)	« Range	« Clubhouse (Container)
Recreation Facilities		« Pavilion « Bee Hive (Meeting Space and Quilters Down the Track) « Lakeview Hall (includes playground) « Under cover area (used for markets)
Fred's Pass Rural Show	Multiple spaces (Equine fields, Rugby League, Pavilion, Market Carpark)	

6.1.2. Site Audit Findings

Several concerns were outlined during the site audit. These included:

- « **The Pavilion (also known as the Community Hall) has been condemned** and is currently only used for the annual show.
- « There are **concerns that the dressage arena is not of a suitable slope**, however this was not confirmed during the site audit.
- « There are a number of **demountable office spaces** have been brought to the site, which have not been certified.
- « There is a **lack of way finding signage** and line marking, which causes parking issues.
- « The **site is not always fully opened**, limiting travel between the sites within Freds Pass Reserve.
- « There are a number of sites that have **watering issues**, and water security continues to be of concern.
- « There was a clear **lack of planned development**, with the most users developing their own spaces in "silos" and not considering if this was beneficial to the reserve as a whole.
- « Due to the siloed planning that has been undertaken in the past there is **significant duplication** across the site, in particular in the development of clubhouses and parking spaces.
- « There are signs of **poor pedestrian connectivity** between sites. This may be due to the poor parking infrastructure and signage of sites.

6.1.3. Consultation Findings

Survey Findings

The user groups at Freds Pass were generally satisfied with the facilities, however when asked to outline the priorities for facilities going forward, the overwhelming consensus was to prioritise building improvements and field improvements. For field improvements the priorities don't necessarily advocate for new fields but rather access to fields for training and to improve competition offerings. For building and amenities, the focus of the clubs was the use of new or improved existing buildings for clubhouses, with many also specifically mentioning bar facilities.

Reserve Management Committee

The reserve management committee developed a master plan in 2018 which has been guiding the development of the reserve. The committee identified a number areas that needed to be considered as part of the strategy:

- « A need to balance the priorities of the current user groups and avoiding duplication of facilities
- « The existing infrastructure is old and requires regular work to maintain, however much of this was developed by the club and there are legacy concerns with removal of any infrastructure
- « Critical infrastructure that needs improvement is:
 - Water availability and delivery
 - Power to the site
 - Improving drainage
- « Road and parking infrastructure (varied level across the precinct)
- « There is a desire from the management committee to work closer with the peak sporting bodies to assist the local clubs develop capacity and move towards a model as used by Marrara Sports Precinct in Darwin
- « The development of future plans has been impacted by the changes made at a local club committee level who then change their direction
- « Currently the funding from Council is critical to the development of the precinct. The reserve would like to see increased funding from Council to establish a greater sinking fund for infrastructure maintenance and development
- « There is limited available capital funding for larger projects with most finances being spent on maintenance
- « The committee is looking at alternative locations for athletics, noting that the site identified in the master plan is no longer suitable
- « Irrigation and drainage are the main priorities for the management committee including upgrades to the bore
- « Power to the site requires a new transformer, especially if additional fields are to be lit
- « A decision is required on the future of the community hall. The committee identified that one possibility was to replace the hall with a community centre and administration building
- « The remaining building certification works are significant, and the committee is in the process of determining who is responsible

6.1.4. Issues and Opportunities

Freds Pass Reserve is the second largest sporting precinct in the Greater Darwin area, and is home to 24 user groups mostly from the Litchfield area. The facilities on site have been built by the users over a long period of time, many of which now have recently been repaired to pass certification. Legacy issues associated with building compliance will continue to be an issue for the management committee.

Compounding this legacy issue was a lack of coordinated planning in the past. This has led to significant duplication of facilities and limited sharing of sports grounds. Access and circulation for cars and pedestrians also needs an overall site planning approach. The management committee is looking to rectify these issues with the development of the Fred Pass Master Plan, which has set out the strategic direction for the entire precinct.

Developing court facilities within the reserve was identified by user groups, the management committee and two state sporting bodies. Tennis NT have indicated a willingness to manage the facility if it was found to be feasible. This may also provide an opportunity for the management committee to trial a lease with State Sporting Bodies.

The Freds Pass Master Plan provides the Reserve Management Committee and Council an opportunity to advocate with State Sporting Bodies to the Territory and Federal Governments for additional funds for the reserve. Council have already made this a priority in the 2020 advocacy Plan.

6.2. HOWARD PARK RECREATION RESERVE

Figure 4: Howard Park Recreation Reserve



6.2.1. Site Details

The Howard Park Recreation Reserve is approximately 8 Ha in size. It is located adjacent to the primary school and has the following infrastructure.

- « Concrete BMX Track
- « Baseball cage (no current diamond developed)
- « 1.5 Ha open space with concrete cricket pitch
- « Two community halls
- « Picnic facilities
- « Shaded Playground
- « Scouts Hall

6.2.2. Site Audit Findings

The site is well maintained, and the community halls are some of the only halls with Airconditioning within the LGA. The BMX/ skate track is a simple design and offers two differing levels of difficulty of the same track. The diamond cage is not accompanied by any diamond field, and if a baseball or softball diamond skin was installed this would have a significant impact on any use of the cricket pitch for formal cricket competition. The site has good shade, both natural and built and is located next to a primary school, which may increase passive use before and after school.

6.2.3. Issues and Opportunities

The BMX/ skate track design could be improved to offer a more diverse activity site for the community. One side could be retained, with the other being altered. The community halls are currently the only halls in the LGA that provide air-conditioned space for larger community gatherings. Prior to Whitewood Hall being transferred to Council it operated as a GP Clinic.

6.3. KNUCKEY LAGOON RECREATION RESERVE

Figure 5: Knuckey Lagoon Recreation Reserve



6.3.1. Site Details

This is the most northern site in Litchfield, and is approximately 18 Ha, which consists mostly of bushland. The site consists of a multi-use court, multi-use hall with large undercover area and an open space, which was formerly a field, but in its current state is not suitable for any sport.

6.3.2. Site Audit Findings

The site has a small nature play/ adventure play area adjacent to the community hall and multi-use court. The site is not in a prominent position within its suburb and hidden away from the community. The adventure playground appeared to be recently constructed, however there was limited signage indicating what was available. There was a lack of signage across the site specifically for way finding. Although there was space for a kick about/ open space, this had not been maintained and was mostly compacted rock with no grass covering.

6.3.3. Consultation Findings

The reserve is managed by Council and had very limited response from the community and user group survey. There may be additional use of the site, once Holtze Kowandi is developed, however it is more likely that residents in this area would use facilities in Palmerston. Scouts and a local community group are the only current user groups. Lack of awareness about the site and facilities available, along with its poor visibility may be factors in the low level of use.

6.3.4. Issues and Opportunities

Knuckey Lagoon Recreation Reserve is the most northern reserve in Litchfield, however it appears that there is limited use from the local community. The site has limited signage, is not on any main road and has limited facilities available. The combination of location, lack of signage and surrounding large rural lots means Knuckey Lagoon Recreation Reserve has limited use. Residents are also close to Darwin and Palmerston facilities.

As the main use of the site is for the community hall, there may be an opportunity to work with NTG to investigate the potential of a land swap for a more suitably located site that would deliver greater community benefit.

6.4. MCMINNS LAGOON RECREATION RESERVE

Figure 6: McMinns Lagoon Recreation Reserve



6.4.1. Site Details

McMinns Lagoon is unlike the other recreation reserves. Based around a large lagoon with migratory birds present, the site is more nature reserve than recreation reserve. The site has a number of connecting trails used mainly for walking and running. There is a large lawn picnic area overlooking the Lagoon, which has been popular for events, including weddings and bush markets. As this is a reserve managed by a management committee there is also a small office and storage area.

6.4.2. Site Audit Findings

The site is well maintained with multiple walking trails branching off prior to the large grass area, which is also well maintained. Beyond the trails there is limited other infrastructure on the site. There is a lack of wayfinding signage within the reserve to direct people around the Lagoon or give indications of distances (advice was provided that signage was being installed).

6.4.3. Consultation Findings

The management committee indicated that the Lagoon averaged between 15-20 people per day, and more on weekends. Some of this was due to programs run by Council to get the community more active following the Covid-19 restrictions. The site is very popular for walkers, runners and people walking their dogs and is valued by the community.

The management committee noted that a stormwater drain has not been adequately maintained by the NT Government and is impacting the trails around the Lagoon causing localised flooding which the committee has insufficient funding to address. There is also a lack of

volunteers to assist in managing the site, which has put more pressure on the caretaker.

The current level of funding is considered insufficient by the caretaker, with most funding spent on maintenance of the facility and the machinery and not improvements. To overcome this shortfall the committee is looking to establish a seed sale revenue stream in conjunction with a local school.

6.4.4. Issues and Opportunities

McMinns Lagoon sits in a unique position within Litchfield Council as its primary use is nature conservation with nature based recreation (and trails based recreation) a secondary use. The site has been used in the past with events such as bush markets and education presentations with the potential to be a small use event site. There is a need to establish power to the large, grassed area to improve the event capabilities of the site.

The trails around the lake have also become very popular recently and there is an opportunity to develop the site as an exercise focal point for the community. The addition of distance markers, wayfinding and interpretive signs across the site may further increase the popularity of the site. Some consideration should also be given to formalising a track around the lake to reduce the level of maintenance, particularly in the wet season.

Some consideration may need to be given to increasing the size of the office space if Council is to continue to use the reserve management committee as the management model. This may need to be reviewed as volunteers for the site have declined sharply and volunteering in general has continued to decline across Australia.

6.5. HUMPTY DOO VILLAGE GREEN

Figure 7: Humpty Doo Village Green



6.5.1. Site Detail

Humpty Doo Village Green has the most significant infrastructure outside of Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve. The infrastructure on site includes:

- « Three playgrounds
- « Community hall (fenced)
- « Picnic facilities
- « Scouts Hall
- « Covered Skate Park
- « Dirt Pump Track
- « Caretaker facility
- « Lawn Bowls Club (club managed)

6.5.2. Site Audit Findings

The site is well maintained, however due to recent antisocial behaviour on site, significantly increased fencing may lower the visual appeal of the site. The shade sail roof structure over the skate park is damaged frequently and must be removed during the cyclone season. This removes the shade from the site when it is most needed in the summer months.

The community hall is locked when not in use (as a response to ongoing vandalism issues) and although this is a large open undercover space, it is not available to the general public unless for a booked use. The hall has a commercial kitchen but struggles during hot weather due to poor air-circulation. The park lands are well used and well maintained.

The halfpipe in the skatepark is very steep and requires a high level of skill to use. It is unlikely that this part of the skate park would be used and it may be better for it to be modified to a more appropriate design for a community skate park. Adjacent to the skate park is a small dirt bike track that was developed by local children (with the assistance of the committee).

There is also some undeveloped open space, in particular the land adjacent to the skate park and in front of the bowls club.

6.5.3. Consultation Findings

The development of infrastructure at the site has been driven by the community. Consultation with the management committee indicated that decisions regarding infrastructure development were based on the demands of the community at the time. There was no strategic site master plan that directed decision making and priorities of the management committee. The site is also well used by residents from the neighbouring council areas, specifically Palmerston.

The bowls club advised that there was a need to repair the power to the site, as this has been a long-standing issue. The club is currently seeking funding to repair the issue. The Club's membership is declining, although this can fluctuate, but there may be a need to plan to increase membership and other revenue streams, such as social competitions.

At the time of writing, the Humpty Doo Village Green Reserve Management Committee had not signed a lease with Litchfield Council, with their main concern over the roles and responsibilities of each of the parties. Both the management committee and the bowls club were concerned about responsibility for compliance issues, such as those at the bowls club and the scout's hall.

6.5.4. Issues and Opportunities

Humpty Doo Village Green is a popular site with the community and is the main destination parkland in Litchfield. It offers the largest variety of activities. The most critical issue facing the management committee is the requirement to remove the shade sail during cyclone season, when it would be most beneficial. This is also a significant financial burden on the management committee, who suggested a cost over \$10,000 annually. Replacement with a fixed roof should be investigated.

The management committee indicated that there is no strategic master planning to guide development and investment. While this has worked in the past, the roles and responsibilities moving forward will place greater pressure on the volunteers. The site has a number of issues with the long-term viability of multiple buildings, including the scouts hall and community hall. Development of a long-term plan for the site will allow the management committee to plan for any necessary development that will be required and identify potential funding sources.

There may be an opportunity to diversify the services offered at the Humpty Doo Bowls Club if the infrastructure issues can be rectified. A number of bowls clubs are diversifying programming through alternative uses, including low impact activities, such as yoga, boot camps and in some cases futsal on the bowling green. This may provide a future revenue source for the Bowls Club to assist in maintenance and upkeep.



6.6. BERRY SPRINGS RECREATION RESERVE

Figure 8: Berry Springs Recreation Reserve



6.6.1. Site Details

Berry Springs Recreation Reserve is Council's most western location and is located next to the local primary school. The site offers an AFL field, community hall, playground, tennis court and picnic facilities.

6.6.2. Site Audit Findings

The site appears well maintained, with minor issues in the community hall regarding power for cooling. The existing goal posts at the site do not properly align and may not be currently suitable as a competition venue, however the surface looks suitable for training. There is significant shade around the site, both natural shade trees and structures. The site has good connectivity between the community halls, field, playground and tennis court. There is also significant parking available at the site.

6.6.3. Consultation Findings

The Berry Springs Recreation Reserve Management Committee were contacted multiple times, including in person by Council staff at a management committee meeting. At the time of writing this report, no issues have been raised by them.

6.6.4. Issues and Opportunities

The reserve is a well laid out multiple use precinct. Apart from power supply issues, configuration of the sports field and pursuing shared provision approaches with the adjacent school, no other issues or opportunities were identified.

6.7. LIVINGSTONE RECREATION RESERVE

Figure 9: Livingstone Recreation Reserve



6.7.1. Site Details

Livingstone Recreation Reserve is approximately 28 Ha in size with a developed area of approximately 10 Ha. The site consists of the following infrastructure:

- « Community Hall
- « Rectangular field
- « Beach Volleyball Court
- « Equestrian facilities
- « Picnic tables
- « Playground (being replaced)
- « The Livingstone Volunteer Bushfire Brigade (site and facilities managed by the Brigade)

The site recently had a playground however it has been removed for compliance issues but is expected to be replaced in the near future.

6.7.2. Site Audit Findings

The community hall is well maintained and has recently been upgraded. This is to support the meals provided on a Friday night. The beach volleyball court is not currently in use and would require more work to bring it to standard for use. The sports field at the time of the visit was being used for equestrian activities, which would limit any potential field activities.

As stated above, the site is approximately only one third developed, with much of the undeveloped land bushland, which may be conducive to mixed use trails including cross country trails. The community hall does look out over the rectangular field and adjacent bushland, which may provide an opportunity for the site to be used for different events.

6.7.3. Consultation Findings

The reserve management committee outlined that there is currently only one current user of the site, Litchfield Horse and Pony Club. They have been working well with the club, recently making the field available for dressage. The committee did mention that the club only approaches them when they need assistance however as they are the only user this is not a current issue.

The management committee have a master plan for the site, established in 2015 and plans until 2025. The management committee has completed 25 of 46 planned actions. The committee is struggling for volunteers; however, this document ensures that there is a strategic direction for the site going forward.

The site runs a Friday night “pub” service with the kitchen operation leased to a third-party operator. This is providing an important service to the local community as a social opportunity and community gathering. This is operating successfully with around 120 meals served on a Friday night and it is the main revenue source for the committee to manage the reserve.

The old playground is being replaced as the site has become popular with families. There were also suggestions for a multi-use court at the site to meet the needs of the community. The committee is yet to determine what the potential use of such a site would be. In the past the beach volleyball court had been a popular social competition.

Car parking at the site is an issue during events, including the Pub nights. The management committee have plans to rectify the issue by formalising the parking at the site. The committee has also undertaken works to improve the irrigation on the rectangle field, however this is not fully connected as there are no users of the site.

6.7.4. Issues and Opportunities

The Livingstone Recreation Reserve Master Plan has been used to guide development and will continue to do so. The remaining sporting and recreation facilities including the beach volleyball court and multi-use court are expected to cost more than \$500,000 and there is limited expressed demand for these facilities, which if developed would require additional maintenance and funding.

The site is largely undeveloped, and the management committee is open to developing the site further if there is expressed demand. There may be potential to develop the bushland area of the site for bushwalking and horse trails. This will need to be balanced with the availability of resourcing within the committee to maintain any such trails.

With the success of the Friday night “Pub” the Livingstone Recreation Reserve acts as a focal point for the community and improvements to this service, including planned upgrades to the hall should be encouraged. This could be complimented with the development of additional unstructured active opportunities such as a new playground (planned development), half court and walking trails. This would confirm the site as the community hub of the local area.



7. FUTURE LAND OPPORTUNITIES

7.1. 320 ARNHEM HIGHWAY

An existing masterplan concept has been completed for the site . However implementation is subject to a number of factors including access to external funding and competing priorities. The master plan proposed the following facilities for a community purpose:



Council Offices



Cafe/Children Playground



Seating



Community Pool – 25m X 8 lane



District Library/Early learning development



Multipurpose Space/Community hall

7.2. SOUTHPORT – MIRA SQUARE

The community at Southport have approached Council to establish land for the community. As part of the current discussions a masterplan for land (Mira Square) has been developed to deliver a community park. This includes:



COMMUNITY HALL

A 400m² covered multi-use space for community activities, including a meeting room and toilet facilities.



PLAY AREA

Play area consisting of multi-age climbing structures, slide and swing facilities within a soft fall play area.



CAR PARKING

Gravel base car parking with space for 18 parking bays with bollards to define the extent of the car park.



OPEN GRASSED AREA

Open grass area for play and picnicking, defined by the surrounding bush land and purpose planted shade trees.



SHADE STRUCTURE

Open roof structure providing shaded picnic seating and community BBQ area.



WATER TANK

200,000L Capacity water storage tank, collected off the Community Hall roof, large enough to supply the facility with water all year round.

7.3. COOLALINGA OPEN SPACE – LOCAL PARK

As part of the overall development of the Coolalinga site, the Northern Territory Government has indicated that land would be set aside for community use (parkland). This community has a large area of medium density housing and currently no public space provision at all. It will be critical prior to any additional releases of land for housing, an accessible area of public open space developed as a local park is provided.

7.4. COUNCIL OFFICE

There have been internal discussions within Council regarding the relocation of the staff to a larger site to accommodate the growth within Council. If this was to occur there would be an opportunity to reuse the offices to provide the community with significant meeting spaces and picnic facilities.

8. THE SPORT, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

8.1. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

This plan sets out a 10 year strategy for planning and providing sport recreation and open space opportunities for the Litchfield community. The plan details a number of policy, strategy and specific recommendations and has been designed to be flexible as there is a high reliance on external funding and partnerships to achieve many recommendations.

While Council's role is to provide leadership in planning and support for existing and emerging community partnerships, Council and the community acknowledge there are limited financial and staff resources and that it is only through multiple partnerships with community groups and other levels of government that many of the plan's objectives will be realised.

An Implementation Plan with indicative timing, responsibilities and resources will be prepared for Council following endorsement of the final Sport, Recreation and Open Space Strategy.

8.1.1. Plan Priorities and Review

Priorities have been indicated for the recommendations using the following:

- « High (1- 3 years)
- « Medium (3-6 years)
- « Low (6-10 years)
- « Ongoing (continuing actions)

These priorities are a guide only as, opportunities may arise (e.g. through access to external funding) which will enable some actions to be brought forward. Similarly some circumstances may change and mean that some actions will need to be deferred.

Once adopted the Implementation Plan should be reviewed each year to allow Council to report to the community on progress and to adjust actions and priorities according to emerging needs and resource opportunities.



8.2. COUNCIL POLICY AND PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

8.2.1. Review and adopt a new Sport and Recreation Policy (High)

A Sport and Recreation Policy will allow for more consistent decision making, endorse the proposed provision framework, defines Council's role and provides the context to develop additional policies around leasing and not for profit tenure or management of reserves and facilities. The policy will provide a basis for prioritising emerging proposals and requests. A draft policy outline is provided in Appendix One for consideration.

8.2.2. Adopt the Sport and Recreation Provision Framework (High)

The provision of sport, recreation and open space should be provided equitably across the Council area. The following framework sets out the hierarchy of provision and the minimum standard of service anticipated to be provided.

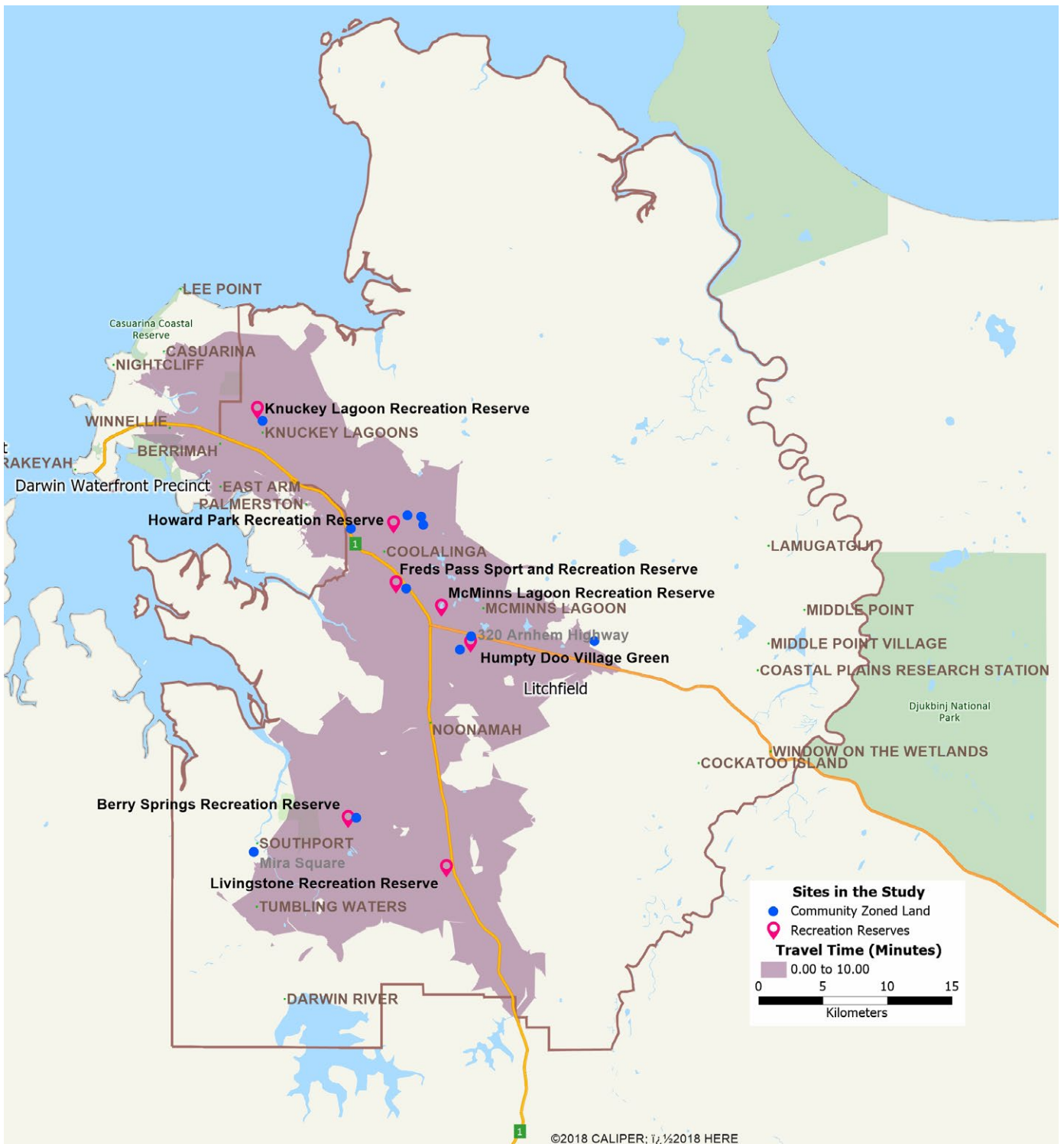
The intent is to define the desired opportunity outcome for the majority of residents. Litchfield is a large council and in some areas sparsely populated, so a target percentage coverage of the population has been defined

Table 4: Proposed Hierarchy Framework

HIERARCHY OF PROVISION	DESIRED SERVICE CATCHMENT	MINIMUM LEVEL OF SERVICE
Regional	Within the Local Government Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Competition level playing surface and lighting for each facility type « Access to an event space for major events « Access to cultural/ community/ library « Competition Equestrian facilities « Access to an aquatic and indoor court facility
Nature Based Recreation	Within 10 minutes-drive for 80% of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Access to walking and riding trails « Access to picnic facilities in natural areas
Township Sport and Recreation	Within 10 minutes-drive for 80% of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Access to training field and junior competition space « Access to multi-use court « Access to a youth space/ activity area « Access to a community meeting space/ hall (long term to be air conditioned) « Access to picnic facilities and play spaces for younger children « Access to active recreation opportunities (e.g. trails/ exercise stations) « Access to local community events space
Urban – Only applicable in small lot development areas.	Within 500m walk for 90% of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Access to park of a minimum size of 0.5 Ha « Access to play space « Access to picnic facilities « Park must provide access to water, have good road frontage (preferred 50%)

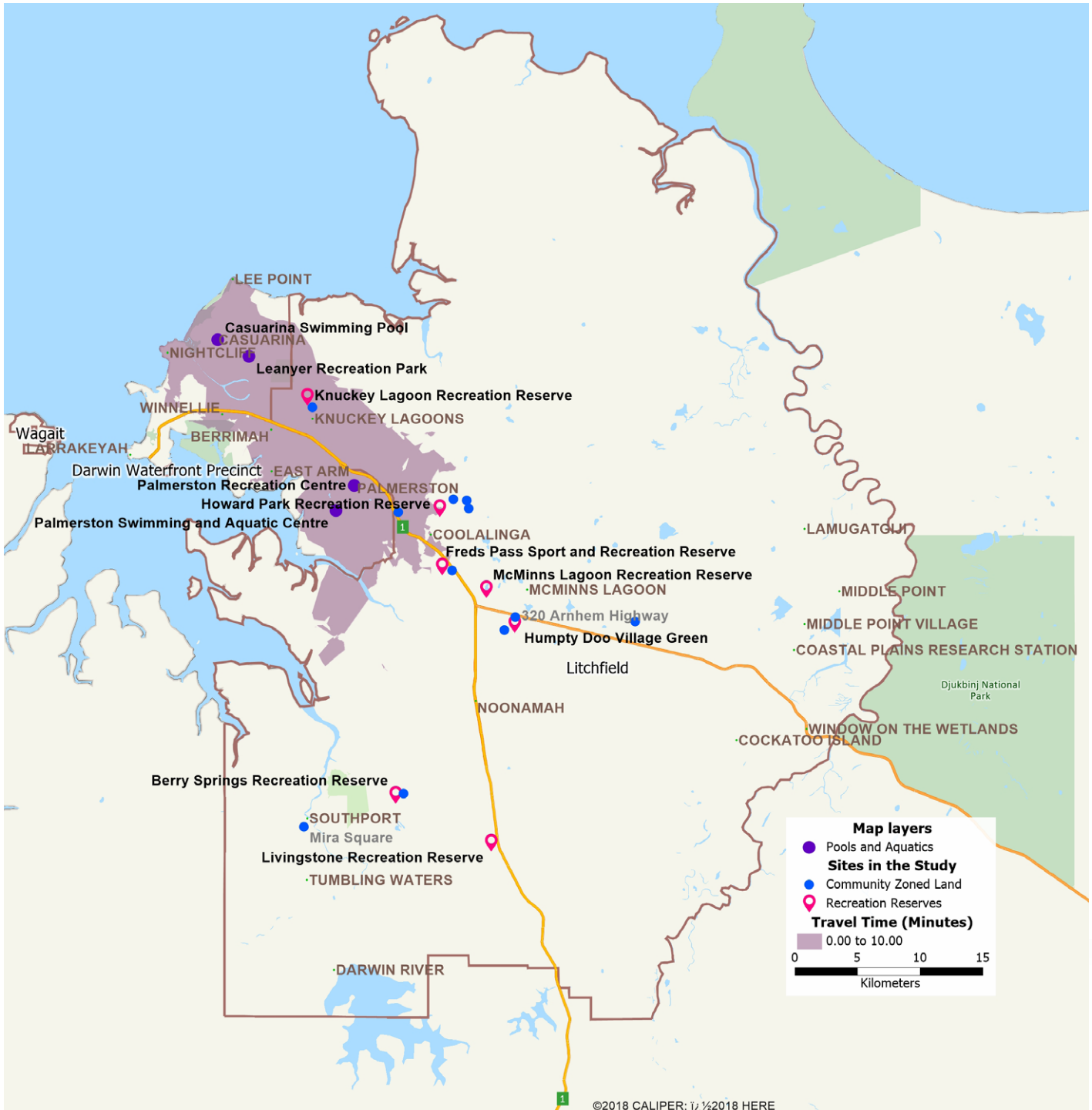
There are approximately 20,000 Litchfield Residents with in the desired 10 minute drive range for township and nature based opportunities. This represents a coverage of 80% of the population, as shown in the figure below.

Figure 10: Reserve Level of Service Catchment (population covered by 10 minutes drive to a Reserve)



There are no Aquatic or indoor sport facilities in Litchfield, however a 10-minute drive time catchment from aquatic and indoor facilities located in Darwin and Palmerston extends into Litchfield and covers a small part of the council area (see map below). The growth in demand associated with the development of Holtze and the lack of provision elsewhere in the council area suggests that there is likely to be sufficient demand for a small facility centrally located in Litchfield. The following map shows the coverage of Litchfield based on the 10-minute drive time radius.

Figure 11: Existing Aquatic and Indoor Catchment (10 min Drive Time)



8.3. FUTURE FACILITY AND PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a number of recommendations designed to address existing provision issues, strengthen existing partnerships or develop new strategies for provision. It will be critical that Council (and the NTG) ensure that urban development areas, such as Coolalinga, Humpty Doo, Southport and Holtze are provided with suitable infrastructure to meet the minimum level of service outlined in the Provision Framework..

The table below provides more detail.

Table 5: Future Facilities and Other Planning Recommendations

ACTION	PRIORITY
Council should implement the master plan for Mira Square at Southport and undertake staged development of the site, ensuring the area meets the minimum standard for an urban park.	High
Council should ensure that the residents in Coolalinga have a suitable level of service, as described above for an urban area. This should include lobbying to the Northern Territory Government to provide a functional and accessible local park before more housing is released.	High
It will be critical that as further development is undertaken in Coolalinga, and the bus terminal remains nearby, Council works with the NTG to develop a safe active transport (walking and cycling) route to Freds Pass.	High
Council should develop a structured program to develop the skills and capacity of management committee and clubs. This should include upskilling in management, planning, financial management, grants and fundraising, event management, sustainability, and facility management. This improves capacity associated with the tasks they are required to undertake. The program needs to be recurring to ensure that incoming committee members have access to skills and training support. ³	High
Council should continue to plan for the 320 Arnhem Highway site. This could include a feasibility into a multiuse centre that can accommodate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « 25m Program pool « Learn to swim program « Cultural/ community centre/ library « 2-court indoor centre. The potential additional population from any development of the Holtze area will create additional demand and may provide support for this type of development by improving feasibility	Medium
Council should work with Court Sport Organisations including Netball, Tennis, Basketball to develop a local court sport precinct. This should be a multiuse site that caters for training and local competition. Tennis NT indicated an openness to managing such a facility and Council should work with Tennis to better understand the requirements of such a management option.	Medium
Council should continue to support expansion of trail-based recreation supporting, walking, trail running and cycling. This includes supporting the continued development of the rail trail and increasing the community's knowledge of the availability of the rail trail and promotion of other walking and cycling trails what recreation activities are available within the Council area.	On-going
Council should work with schools and clubs to identify possible opportunities to increase community use of existing school fields and courts. This is a more efficient use of public resources and avoids duplication . To reduce the risk in this approach, support from NTG Sport, Tourism and Culture should be sought to develop agreements with schools that protect access for clubs for a reasonable level of time. Agreements may include some additional support from Council such as support for maintenance.	On-going
Council should continue to lobby the Territory Government to secure Gunn Point as a reserve for the community to support outdoor recreation.	On-going

³ Examples include Cairns Regional Council's Go Clubs program and Sport Community. NTG Sport and Recreation are also exploring club training programs and would be the logical partner.

8.4. RESERVE PLANS

8.4.1. Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve

Table 6: Freds Pass Sport and Recreation Reserve Plan

FREDS PASS RECREATION RESERVE				
Role and Hierarchy	Regional Sporting Reserve to service the competition needs of the Litchfield Community. Township sport and recreation opportunities for surrounding community			
Vision	Develop a destination sport and recreation reserve which provides high level competition facilities across most sports and has the ability to be the major event location in Litchfield. The precinct also provides park, picnic and play opportunities as well as providing for exercise and fitness based recreation.			
Current Management	Managed under lease			
Level of Service Compliance	Desired Recreation Outcome		Provision	
	Competition lit playing field per code	Provided		
	Major Outdoor Events Space	Provided		
	Outdoor court sport precinct	Potential		
	Active recreation opportunities, e.g. running loops or trails	Potential		
	Community meeting and activity hall	Provided		
	Picnic area	Provided		
	Playground	Provided		
	Competition Equestrian Facilities	Provided		
Recommendations and Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the NTG to develop a safe active transport connection between Coolalinga and Freds Pass Recreation Reserve. 2. Work with Netball NT and Tennis NT to develop a court sport precinct, approximately 6 courts, that caters for Netball, Basketball and Tennis. Council should also work with Tennis NT to have Tennis NT manage the site. 3. Work towards lighting all competition fields to a suitable competition level. 4. Council and the management committee should consider a spatial master plan to address circulation, parking and access issues to identify the best potential location for a court sport precinct and a future home for athletics. 5. Establish an active/ running trail within the reserve, of a suitable size to undertake a park run. 6. Council should work with the Committee and user groups to agree on the priority of the actions from the endorsed Freds Pass Master Plan. This should include the incorporation of the club/user developed site concept plans. 7. Council should work with the management committee to have the master plan endorsed by the Peak Sporting Bodies including the priority level of actions and each individual user groups site concept plan. 8. Implement the Equestrian Master Plan and priorities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Medium - High 3. Medium 4. Medium - Low 5. Low 6. On-going 7. On-going 8. On-going 		

8.4.2. Howard Park Recreation Reserve

Table 7: Howard Park Recreation Reserve Plan

HOWARD PARK RECREATION RESERVE		
Role and Hierarchy	Township Reserve to service the northern area for family gatherings and active recreation.	
Vision	To provide the community with a space suitable for family gathering and local community events.	
Current Management	Council Managed with Community Advisory Committee	
Level of Service Compliance	Desired Recreation Outcome	Provision
	Training/junior field	Provided
	Access to multi-use court	Investigate use of school facility
	Access to a youth space/ activity area	Provided
	Access to a community meeting space/ hall (long term to be air conditioned)	Provided
	Access to picnic facilities and play spaces for younger children	Provided
	Access to active recreation opportunities (e.g. trails/ exercise stations)	Provided
	Access to local community events space	Provided
Recommendations and Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a long-term plan for the site to ensure there is suitable capacity in the reserve for any increased used from the Holtze Kowandi Development. This should focus on developing the site to reflect the vision of the reserve. 2. Consider the long-term sustainability of three halls and the potential to have long term leases in place that reduce Council responsibility for operating costs and minor maintenance. 3. Continue to work with the community to establish a reserve management board or increase involvement in reserve planning. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low 2. Low 3. On-going



8.4.3. Knuckey Lagoon Recreation Reserve

Table 8: Knuckey Lagoon Recreation Reserve Plan

KNUCKEY LAGOON RECREATION RESERVE		
Role and Hierarchy	Nature Based Recreation Reserve providing access to recreation trails and small community events and township recreation opportunities.	
Vision	The reserve provides the nearby residents a safe place to exercise, gather and partake in social activities, groups and events.	
Current Management	Council Managed with Community Advisory Committee to be established	
Level of Service Compliance	Desired Recreation Outcome	Provision
	Access to walking and riding trails	Continue to develop
	Access to picnic facilities in natural areas	Provided
	Community meeting space/ hall	Provided
	Playground	Consider upgrade- enhance nature play
	Sports court	Provided
	Sport field, activity space	Convert to outdoor event community space.
Recommendations and Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the local community user groups to manage the building with a view to establishing a lease. 2. If the above is successful, explore expansion to a new (whole of) reserve management board. 3. Develop a number of walking and riding trails within the reserve to encourage active recreation. 4. Consider the future use of the “field” space and the potential to convert to an outdoor community events and cultural space or similar alternative use. This should include establishing power to the area to accommodate a greater variety of uses. 5. Ensure the site is maintained to encourage more use. This should also include more advertising by Council of what is available at the site. 6. Promote the available sports court to the community to identify any regular user groups, who may form part of a reserve management committee. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High - Medium 2. Medium 3. Medium 4. Low 5. On-going 6. On-going



8.4.4. McMinns Lagoon Recreation Reserve

Table 9: McMinns Lagoon Recreation Reserve Plan

MCMINNS LAGOON RECREATION RESERVE		
Role and Hierarchy	Nature Based Recreation Reserve providing access to the Lagoon, natural area activities (including bird watching), recreation trails and community events.	
Vision	The reserve provides the nearby residents a safe place to exercise, gather and partake in social activities, groups and events.	
Current Management	Managed under lease	
Level of Service Compliance	Desired Recreation Outcome	Provision
	Access to walking and riding trails	Provided
	Access to picnic facilities in natural areas	Provided
	Community meeting/events space	Upgrade lawn area to provide
Recommendations and Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocate to the NTG to rectify the drainage issues causing trail damage. 2. Support the Committee to gain funding to establish power to the lawn area for events. 3. Support the Committee to gain funding for improvements to the office space. 4. Continue to support the Management Committee to recruit new members and plan for the future use of the reserve 5. Continue to support the development and improvements of walking trails around the Lagoon. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Medium - Low 3. Low 4. On-going 5. On-going



8.4.5. Humpty Doo Village Green

Table 10: Humpty Doo Village Green Plan

HUMPTY DOO VILLAGE GREEN		
Role and Hierarchy	Township Reserve to provide the community with a well activated space, providing opportunities for the whole family.	
Vision	The reserve provides opportunities for the whole family, including activation for young children, youth, and older adults.	
Current Management	Managed by a Reserve Committee (Lease negotiations on-going)	
Level of Service Compliance	Desired Recreation Outcome	Provision
	Training/junior field	Investigate use of school facility
	Access to multi-use court	Investigate use of school facility
	Access to a youth space/ activity area	Provided
	Access to a community meeting space/ hall (long term to be air conditioned)	Provided
	Access to picnic facilities and play spaces for younger children	Provided
	Access to active recreation opportunities (e.g. trails/ exercise stations)	Provided
	Access to local community events space	Provided
Recommendations and Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install a fixed steel roof over the skate park. 2. Install signage at the halfpipe of the skate park, outlining the required skill level of the halfpipe. If the long-term plans for the site include redesigning the skate park, consideration should be given to removing this aspect of the skate park. 3. Develop a formal spatial and strategic plan for the reserve to guide planning and assist in gaining grant funding for improvements. 4. Investigate the potential of developing a court sports precinct here is not possible at Freds Pass. 5. Develop a plan to determine the future of the current buildings on site, including the scouts hall. 6. Council and the management committee, as part of the overall strategic and spatial plan, should work with the nearby schools to ensure there is greater youth activation and ownership of the site to assist in reducing vandalism of the site. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. High 3. Medium 4. Low 5. Low 6. On-going



8.4.6. Berry Springs Recreation Reserve

Table 11: Berry Springs Recreation Reserve Plan

BERRY SPRINGS RECREATION RESERVE		
Role and Hierarchy	Township Reserve to provide a space for junior sport and training, while also a community gathering space, providing informal recreation opportunities.	
Vision	The reserve provides a meeting space for the community to participate in sport and recreation activities.	
Current Management	Managed under lease	
Level of Service Compliance	Desired Recreation Outcome	Provision
	Training/junior field	Provided
	Access to multi-use court	Provided
	Access to a youth space/ activity area	To be developed
	Access to a community meeting space/ hall (long term to be air conditioned)	Provided
	Access to picnic facilities and play spaces for younger children	Provided
	Access to active recreation opportunities (e.g. trails/ exercise stations)	Provided
	Access to local community events space	Provided
Recommendations and Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council should work with the management committee to establish a priority plan of works for the upkeep and maintenance of the site. This should include rectifying the goal post alignment issues. 2. The Committee should work with the neighbouring school to determine a suitable youth activation plan for the north east corner of the site, if demand is identified. 3. The committee should increase promotion of the field for training purposes. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. Medium - Low 3. On-going



8.4.7. Livingstone Recreation Reserve

Table 12: Livingstone Recreation Reserve Plan

LIVINGSTONE RECREATION RESERVE		
Role and Hierarchy	Township Reserve to provide a space for equestrian sport, active recreation opportunities and event space for the residents south of Noonamah.	
Vision	A place for the community to gather, undertake informal recreation, equestrian activities and community events.	
Current Management	Managed under lease	
Level of Service Compliance	Desired Recreation Outcome	Provision
	Training/junior field	Provided
	Access to multi-use court	Planned to provide
	Access to a youth space/ activity area	To be provided
	Access to a community meeting space/ hall (long term to be air conditioned)	Provided
	Access to picnic facilities and play spaces for younger children	Planned to be provided
	Access to active recreation opportunities (e.g. trails/ exercise stations)	Provided
	Access to local community events space	Provided
Recommendations and Priority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council to endorse the master plan for the site. 2. Develop picnic facilities with the installation of new playground equipment. 3. Investigate the feasibility of a multi-use court at the reserve. 4. Investigate the potential for a mixed-use trail network within the current bushland area. 5. If there is a need identified by current users, the long-term potential for a equestrian cross country course should be further investigated. 6. Consider long term future of the sports field, with potential interim alternative use, while maintaining the ability to convert back to a sport field if demand arises. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High 2. High 3. Medium 4. Low 5. Low 6. On-going



8.5. FUNDING AND RESOURCING STRATEGY

This ten-year plan recommends a range of actions to ensure strategically planned and equitably resources sport and recreation opportunities for the Litchfield community. There are limitations to the resources available to Council and the Community and access to external funding and partnerships with other organisations and agencies will be essential to the progress of many recommendations.

While detail on potential funding and implementation partners may be contained in the prior recommendations, an overall funding strategy framework has been developed to assist in implementation.

The following matrix outlines the proposed funding and resourcing strategy for different recommendation categories.

RECOMMENDATION TYPE	FUNDING IMPLICATION	COUNCIL ROLE	KEY PARTNERS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Developing and adopting new policies and the Provision Framework	Staff and Councillor time to review. Each new policy may have funding implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Finalise and adopt « Include budget measures or funding strategies if required « Review regularly and update 	Nil- Internal process
Addressing under provision in Urban Areas	Capital costs to develop new parks/ facilities Ongoing maintenance and operations costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Liaise with NTG in regard to addressing issue « Approve/ agree to proposed concept plan/ master plan « Budget for ongoing maintenance 	NTG - to provide land and capital funds to develop missing infrastructure. Possible federal grants for facilities or park embellishments
Preparing reserve master plans and spatial plans	Staff time to work with Lessee/ Committee/ Community Funding for consultants or specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Support reserve manager to prepare/ revise master plans and spatial master plans « Manage the preparation of plans for reserves where there is no community management. « Provide technical advice on proposed actions to ensure building and planning standards are met. « Contribute to funding needed to prepare plans 	Reserve Managers to manage planning process if they have capacity. Grant funding from NTG Collaborative funding from Peak Sports with a major interest.
Planning and Feasibility Studies	May be an essential part of getting capital grants to develop facilities. Funding needed for Consultants and specialists Staff time to manage or be involved in project Potential operational costs if project proceeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Provide all or part funding for the study. « Manage the project and support community engagement « Include budget allocation where there is an operating cost implication for council 	NTG grants to support preparation of a business case or feasibility. Peak Sports or other potential facility partners (including reserve managers if applicable) who may contribute to the study costs.

RECOMMENDATION TYPE	FUNDING IMPLICATION	COUNCIL ROLE	KEY PARTNERS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
Supporting community based and not for profit management of reserves and club delivery of sport and recreation	For community based management of reserves and facilities to remain sustainable continued investment in skills and capacity is required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Staff time to coordinate with external providers and curate resources for community groups. « Support groups and provide advice and guidance to develop strong committees with good governance « Provide help in accessing training and on-line resources 	<p>Numerous partners, support agencies including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> « NTG (Sport, Tourism and Culture) « Sport Australia « Volunteers Australia « Our Community.org « Peak Sports « Not for Profit training providers « Extensive on-line resources provided by most State Sport and Recreation Agencies.
Developing new facilities	Capital funding for development. Recurrent funding to support or subsidise operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> « Only support projects that are in keeping with Sport and Recreation Strategy priorities and have been shown to be sustainable. « Prepare grant funding applications or assist with preparation of applications. « Provide auspice role if needed. « Endorse the lodging of applications by others for projects on council land. « Manage the grant and construction if needed. « Contribute seed funding or a portion of capital funds subject to a detailed funding strategy approved by Council. « Include operational funding in future budgets if required. 	<p>NTG grant and capital funding programs for sport and recreation</p> <p>Federal sporting and community facilities grants.</p> <p>Peak sports identified as key partner in facility.</p> <p>Potential commercial partners willing to provide funding in exchange for commercial rights.</p> <p>Property developers required to provide community infrastructure.</p>

9. WARRANTIES AND DISCLAIMERS

The information contained in this report is provided in good faith. While Otium Planning Group has applied their own experience to the task, they have relied upon information supplied to them by other persons and organisations.

We have not conducted an audit of the information provided by others but have accepted it in good faith. Some of the information may have been provided 'commercial in confidence' and as such these venues or sources of information are not specifically identified. Readers should be aware that the preparation of this report may have necessitated projections of the future that are inherently uncertain and that our opinion is based on the underlying representations, assumptions and projections detailed in this report.

There will be differences between projected and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected and those differences may be material. We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will approximate projected results, nor can we confirm, underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections as it is not possible to substantiate assumptions which are based on future events.

Accordingly, neither Otium Planning Group, nor any member or employee of Otium Planning Group, undertakes responsibility arising in any way whatsoever to any persons other than client in respect of this report, for any errors or omissions herein, arising through negligence or otherwise however caused.



APPENDIX ONE – DRAFT SPORT AND RECREATION POLICY

NOTE: This is draft policy outline only and is provided for guidance. As part of implementing this plan, Council will consider, discuss and revise this policy before adoption.

POLICY VISION

Sport and Recreation is an important part of the Litchfield lifestyle. The provision of sport, recreation and parkland opportunities provide health, social and economic benefits to the community. Litchfield Council will work closely with the community and other levels of government to provide well-planned, co-ordinated and integrated facilities and programs that stimulate community involvement and participation.

DEFINING COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council has a primary role to provide leadership on planning for sport and recreation and to support existing and future partnerships with the community and others in providing a diverse range of opportunities. Council fulfils this role by:

- « Recognising sport and recreation as important to the community and ensuring that a minimum level of service as defined in the Provision Framework is delivered.
- « Planning ahead for the upgrading of existing facilities and the provision of new facilities and ensuring that planning undertaken by others for community sport and recreation facilities is realistic, sustainable and at a suitable standard for public use.
- « Continuing to develop and strengthen Council's partnerships with lessees, community groups and other agencies to deliver a range of sport and recreation opportunities.
- « Ensuring that existing parks, reserves and facilities managed by Council are maintained effectively and ensuring that committees and lessees managing reserves and facilities maintain facilities to the agreed standards.
- « Establishing and supporting partnerships with community groups (either as Lessees or Management Committees) who manage and maintain reserves and facilities. This can be in the form of: advice, financial support, assistance with funding applications and support for long term planning.

KEY PRINCIPLES

In achieving the vision, Council will be guided by some key principles for the planning and provision of sport and recreation facilities, services and programs:

- « **A holistic planning approach** – sport and recreation crosses over many areas of Council governance and provides a broad range of benefits. It should not be managed in isolation.
- « **Access and equity** – all members of the community will have the opportunity to participate in sport and recreation.
- « Innovation – seeking innovative solutions to new challenges that emerge due to population change and sport and recreation trends.
- « **Minimise duplication of resources** – efficient use of community assets to meet needs is a core principle and if possible, it is not desirable to duplicate facilities for sport and recreation including those provided by Territory Government Departments such as Education.
- « **Environmental and economic sustainability** – ensuring sport and recreation initiatives preserve natural resources, achieve sustainable environmental outcomes and support the local economy.
- « **Responsible asset management** – a sustainable approach to sport and recreation asset management with a focus on supporting multi-use and shared facilities and being financially viable.
- « **Social and cultural wellbeing** – using sport and recreation as a vehicle for bringing the community together and providing opportunities for social interaction and healthy lifestyles.
- « **Positive partnerships with individuals and groups** – working collaboratively with the community, government agencies, sport and recreation bodies and the private sector in planning provision and management of sport and recreation.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Council will implement this policy through:

- « Adopting the Sport, Recreation and Open Space Plan and updating it regularly.
- « Agreeing on an objective framework for considering priority of new requests for support or investment.
- « Ensuring there is an annual budget for sport and recreation that is sufficient to meet the policy outcomes and increases in line with needs with population growth.
- « Seeking external capital funding sources and supporting grant applications to enable investment in new or upgraded facilities.
- « Providing capital funding to support integrated funding strategies for new and upgraded facilities.
- « Ensuring development of parks, sporting facilities and recreation facilities occurs in such a way as to provide sustainable long-term access to the community.
- « Ensuring that all urban areas or townships receive a minimum level of service in regard to sport and recreation opportunities.
- « Developing and updating a detailed policy on community-based management or leasing of the main reserves.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Sport and Recreation Benefits

Provision of sport and recreation opportunities are essential for the physical, social and economic health of the Litchfield community. This means that Council should recognise and 'value' these benefits as a major return to the community for any investment in sport and recreation opportunities. The cost to operate or support facilities and activities should be measured in terms of the return in:

- « Health and physical activity opportunities;
- « Community integration and social interaction;
- « Support and development of local economies.

Limited Resources and Priorities

Investing in sport and recreation opportunities needs to consider the issue of limited resources and should therefore seek to use a range of resourcing opportunities to maximise the sport and recreation opportunity 'return'. This can be done by:

- « Establishing strategic partnerships to maximise return on existing land and facility resources already existing in the community. A key partnership is with community-based sport and recreation organisations and this should be supported.
- « Improving community access to sport and recreation facilities within school campuses to avoid the need for duplication.
- « Ensuring that existing land and facility resources are managed so as to return maximum benefits.
- « Using available financial and other resources in the most efficient way to encourage multiple use and

shared investment in viable facilities. This can include hard decisions where Council needs to choose the most viable of two options and withdraw support for the other.

- « Creating an information rich environment for community groups, residents and visitors that ensures resource sharing and awareness of opportunities.
- « Building capacity within the community to manage local sport and recreation clubs and groups and providing an environment that nurtures these groups and encourages sustainability and good management.
- « Ensuring that any support or investment for new facilities is based on feasibility or business case analysis that demonstrates viability. This includes ensuring that existing facilities are being used effectively before considering new.

Managing Reserves

There are seven existing reserves that comprise the main provision of sport, recreation and open space for the Litchfield community. In keeping with the strong history of community partnership, the planning and management of these and any future reserves should be undertaken within a partnership framework. Council's preference is to have a formal arrangement where possible and a Not for Profit Tenure Policy will be developed to support this.

In general, the preferred approach is:

1. For large multi-user reserves a formal lease should be agreed with an incorporated community based and not for profit organisation (such as a community board, incorporated management committee, sporting club or regional sports association). The responsibilities of the lessee will be supported with an annual contribution from Council.
2. Where a lease may not be possible or there are no suitable organisations willing to become the lessee, then a community advisory group should be established to help engage the local community and provide input into planning and management decision making. This group would be seen as a first step in developing additional capacity in the local community in the hope of establishing a future community-based organisation to become the lessee for the reserve.
3. Where neither of the above options are currently possible then Council will manage the reserve and will seek to engage with the community on the development of future plans for the reserve and to encourage the establishment of regular users within the reserve which can be developed over time into more community involvement in reserve management.
4. Small parks and undeveloped reserves will be managed by council

Sport and Recreation Provision Framework

Insert the adopted framework as agreed in the Sport and Recreation Strategy.

