



# 05 OPEN SPACE & COMMUNITY

## KEY INITIATIVES

### Open Space

The most liveable regions are known for their quality open space, and such spaces are valuable contributors to broader urban liveability outcomes. The Central Coast is highly valued for its natural, open environment. Our urban open spaces fulfil a wide range of recreational purposes for the community and are part of an invaluable network that makes the Central Coast a desirable place to live and work. Our urban open space comprises public outdoor passive and active recreation space in our urban areas.

Urban open space within the Central Coast is largely concentrated in fringe areas around water bodies rather than in centres, and on higher sloping sites that are managed for biodiversity value and less suitable for recreational use.

Rapid urbanisation of the region has placed pressures on our existing urban open space network, and these pressures are likely to increase over time. It is critical that our open spaces are capable of adapting to the growth pressures ahead.

Preferences for urban open space can change over time, and there may be a

need to reorientate existing open space to suit current community needs. There is a general move away from single use space toward high-quality integrated open space where a greater number of recreational activities can be undertaken by a wider range of the community. It is crucial that in planning for growth, we consider our community's needs and desires in a manner that reflects the way our urban open space is actually used.

This demand for high quality spaces and facilities will require a new approach to the way we plan for urban open space. While new planning should consider land sufficiency (the amount of land available for open space), more emphasis should be placed on the strategic distribution and use of urban open space based on community needs. Planning should also aim to move away from singular use to multi or integrated use of urban open space.

**BY 2036**, our urban open space network will be improved to adapt to the socio-demographic changes ahead, including preferences for a variety of types of urban open space.

Urban open space will be more integrated with our movement networks and will be strategically located to provide a mix of quality play spaces and day to day recreational amenity, catering for all ages and mobility types. Green Infrastructure will be provided and enhanced through the appropriate planning of dual use lands, including land for urban open space.

## PLANNING PRIORITIES

**01**  
Plan for Urban Open Space based on current and future community needs and expectations

**02**  
Distinguish our open space assets from our natural assets

**03**  
Consolidate our open space assets to encourage multi-use open space destinations