

Naracoorte Lucindale Open Space Strategy

Developing sustainable parklands and reserves

Final: September 2011



Prepared For

Naracoorte Lucindale Council
PO Box 555
De Garis Place
Naracoorte
SA 5271

Prepared By



207 the parade norwood south australia 5067
t 08 8431 6180 f 08 8431 8180
e admin@180sls.com.au www.180sls.com.au

In Association With



Part 1: Introduction	1
1.1 Scope of the Strategy	1
1.2 Project Aim	1
1.3 Parameters of the Study	1
1.4 Strategic Alignment	2
1.5 Project Objectives	2
1.6 Project Structure	3
Part 2: Policy Framework – Establishing the Foundation	4
2.1 Benefits of Parks and Reserves	4
2.2 Changing Needs	6
2.3 Functions of Open Space	7
2.4 Classification – Understanding the Framework	8
2.5 Elements of Use	9
2.6 Maintenance Levels	9
2.7 Proposed Classifications	11
2.7.1 <i>Local Open Space</i>	12
2.7.2 <i>Neighbourhood Open Space</i>	12
2.7.3 <i>District Open Space</i>	13
2.7.4 <i>Regional Open Space</i>	13
2.7.5 <i>Network Open Space</i>	14
Part 3: The State of Play – Where are we now?	15
3.1 Overview of Open Space in the Naracoorte Lucindale Council	15
3.2 Community perceptions	16
3.3 Gaps and Opportunities	17
Part 4: Develop a Strategy – Responding to the issues and challenges	18
4.1 Overview	18
4.2 Vision	18
4.3 Guiding principles	19
4.4 Generic Strategies	20
4.5 Key Strategies	23
4.6 Funding Opportunities	26
4.7 Conclusion and Summary	29

**A Vision for Open Space in
Naracoorte Lucindale Council**

***“An open space network that provides an accessible range
of active and passive recreation opportunities while at the
same time recognising and preserving the natural and
cultural environments that are significant to our
community”***



Executive Summary

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council has prepared this Open Space Strategy to ensure the provision of high quality open space for all residents and visitors to the Council area. The Strategy is premised on the community having access to useable, safe and attractive open spaces; and that these spaces are managed to the highest standards that reflect the needs and uses of the community.

The Open Space Strategy recognises that open space contributes immeasurably to the wellbeing and quality of life of residents as well as the economic development and urban amenity of the Council. Open space serves a multi-use function by providing opportunities for recreation, sport and social activities integrated with the natural environment. It defines the Council by providing:

- Green space;
- Habitat for birds;
- Environmental enhancement;
- Conservation of heritage;
- Areas for organised sport and other functions;
- Areas for passive recreation;
- Areas for children's play;
- Venues for community and family celebrations.

This strategy has been structured to be concise and have clear actions that achieve the objective of this project (section 1.5), that will assist in driving the development, management and sustainability of the open space network for the community to use and enjoy.

In order to achieve the objectives a three-stage process was adopted that has enabled Council to develop a number of recommendations to support the development of the open space network. This has included:

- The development of a policy framework (park classification);
- An assessment of influencing factors and opportunities including an assessment of the current supply and provision of parks across Naracoorte Lucindale Council; and
- A Strategic Response for action.

These three aspects of the strategy are backed up by a technical paper that contains the raw data gained through the consultation process and demographic profile statistics for the Council area. This technical paper is called the '*Open Space Strategy: Background Report*' and has been used as a platform for strategy development underpinning the methodology and supporting the findings identified throughout this strategy.

The Council is committed to working with identified and future partners and not in isolation in the delivery of a robust and well managed open space network over the coming years.

Part 1: Introduction

The provision of open space provides a wide variety of opportunities for organisations and communities to undertake pastimes and recreation. These can range from an individual reading a book under a tree to an organised competitive sport with its required infrastructure.

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council plays a central role in this provision and will continue to work on developing formal and informal partnerships with organisations and communities that add to the utilisation, management and development of the open space network within the community.

1.1 Scope of the Strategy

The Council's open space strategy will provide recommendations and guidance for the following points:

- Assist it in clearly defining open space and its uses,
- Establishing a hierarchy of provision,
- Audit existing land and clearly define gaps in provision,
- Identify key linkages between parcels of open space,
- Spatially map open space according to existing and proposed classifications,
- Guide future planning through prioritised strategy development,
- Assist in attracting and securing funding for future open space development.

Consultation has formed a core component of the strategy and existing interest groups that have been consulted include:

- Elected members,
- Senior Council staff,
- Community representatives,
- Sporting and recreation groups,
- Special interest groups such as the Parklands Preservation Society,
- Stakeholder agencies such as DECS, Office for Recreation and Sport, Office for Planning and Local Government, Tourism SA,
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

1.2 Project Aim

The aim of this Strategy is to reflect the recreational needs of the community and protect sensitive ecological areas and historical sites in an integrated way. The Open Space Strategy will guide the development of an open space system, its management and the provision of future opportunities for infrastructure.

1.3 Parameters of the Study

Traditionally open space plans and strategies address a broad range of issues, concerns, opportunities and constraints relating to all aspects of 'open space' which is commonly defined as:

'Public space to include parks, reserves, playgrounds, sporting fields, creek corridors, malls, civic areas, streetscapes, and areas of vacant public land'

Private or institutional land can also be considered in the category of 'open space' but for the purpose of this study the scope of research is targeted

predominantly at Councils reserves and parks that are used for and offer a number of opportunities, such as sports fields, playgrounds, civic areas and creek corridors. However, where opportunities are identified on private and / or institutional land for the improvement of the open space network, particularly for the creation of linkages, then these have been identified for further investigation.

1.4 Strategic Alignment

For the Open Space Strategy to be effective it must develop robust links with other Council strategies and policies as well as other regional and state strategies that can provide alignment for future funding opportunities. The key influences to the development of this Open Space Strategy are:

Naracoorte Lucindale Council documents:

- Naracoorte Lucindale Strategic Management Plan 2009 – 2014
- Better Development Plan (BDP)
- Asset Management Plan – Recreation
- Asset Management Plan – Buildings
- Reserve Management Plans
- North Parklands Management Plan
- South Parklands Management Plan
- Bike Walking Path Master Plan– May 2007

Other Documents:

- Limestone Coast Regional Plan Feb 2010
- Sustainable Recreational Trails

A full appraisal of these documents and their alignment to the Open Space Strategy has been undertaken and is available in the supporting *Open Space Strategy: Background Report*.

1.5 Project Objectives

The following objectives of the Open Space Strategy have been established to meet some of the key challenges facing Council in the provision and management of open space.

- Set a **strategic direction** for open space in the Naracoorte Lucindale Council for the next twenty years with achievable outcomes for the next five years
- Establish an **open space hierarchy**
- Provide a clear **realistic vision** for the future role of open space
- Ensure open space **meets the needs** of current and future residents of Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- **Protect and preserve** open space provision in terms of its amenity, quality and sustainability
- **Improve linkages** between open space by enhancing the cycling and walking network
- Recognise the importance of open space in enhancing the **health and wellbeing** of the community
- Ensure an appropriate **range and mix of open space** is provided across the Council
- Ensure any proposed facility or open space is **flexible in design** to meet the changing needs of the community
- **Protect areas** of conservation heritage value and environmental significance.
- Provide a clear **framework for budgetary** considerations and actions

- Recommend **achievable and financially sustainable actions** taking into account the current maintenance service levels and

1.6 Project Structure

In order to achieve the objectives, a three staged process was adopted that has enabled Council to develop a number of recommendations around the design, development and sustainable management of open space in the coming years. This has included the development of a policy framework (park classification); an assessment of influencing factors and opportunities (including an assessment of the current supply and provision of parks across Naracoorte Lucindale Council); and ultimately a strategic response for action.

Underpinning the methodology and supporting the findings throughout the strategy is the *Open Space Strategy: Background Report*.



Part 2: Policy Framework – Establishing the Foundation

With approximately 8,500 residents the Naracoorte Lucindale Council is located in the heart of the Limestone Coast region. The Council is approximately 330 kilometres from Adelaide and 450 kilometres from Melbourne and encompasses an area of approximately 452,990 hectares. Naracoorte is the main service centre for the Council district, which also contains the smaller towns and communities of Lucindale, Hynam, Kybybolite and Frances. The district contains breathtaking scenery and natural wonders, abundant wildlife, wetlands of international importance, South Australia's only World Heritage Listed Area and is home to the famous Lucindale Field Days, Taste the Limestone Coast Festival and the Frances Folk Gathering.

The boundary for the Naracoorte Lucindale Council area is identified in Figure 2.

A full breakdown of the areas demographics is provided in the **Open Space Strategy: Background Report**.

2.1 Benefits of Parks and Reserves

It is well documented¹ that there is a strong link between a good parks and open space system and a healthy and vibrant society (Figure 1). Along with the more 'obvious virtues', parks provide:

- Escape from urban stress
- Places for people to enjoy numerous outdoor activities
- Areas for children to safely explore the natural environment

¹ [Healthy parks, healthy people: The health benefits of contact with nature in a park context \(A review of relevant literature\)](#).

- Environmental corridors
- Buffers that divide (or integrate) mixed use areas
- Water catchments
- Hike and bike trails
- Places to celebrate a Town's culture and heritage.

This strategy will assist Council to better understand the importance and role of open space and that decisions relating to the supply, demand or management will be considered against Social, Environmental and Economic impacts and not (without justification) biased toward one specific area.

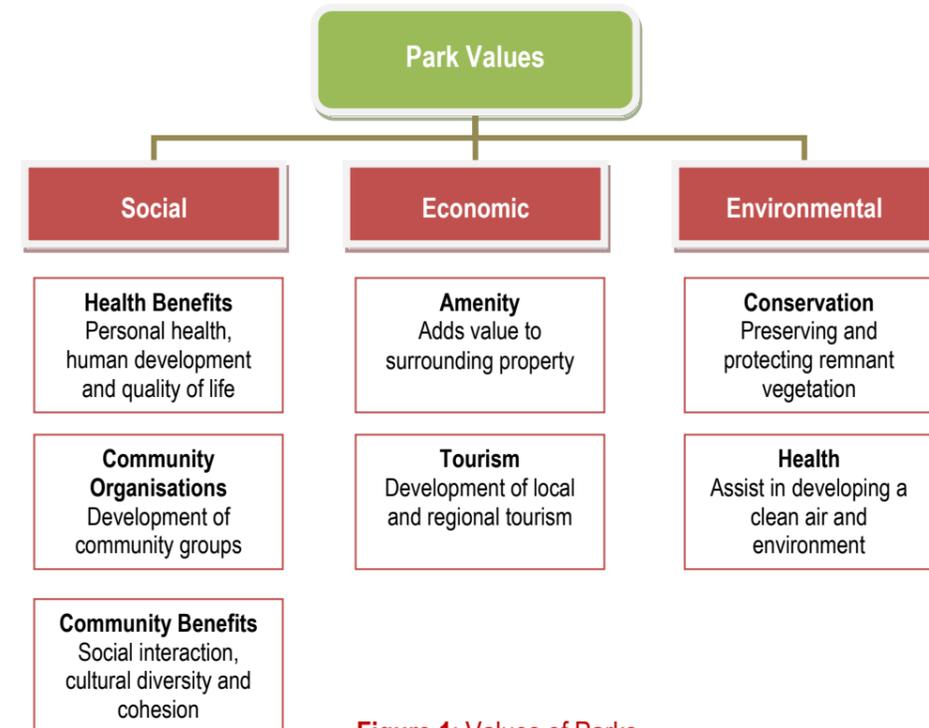


Figure 1: Values of Parks

Source: Modified from the Sydney Urban Parks Education and Research Group Model

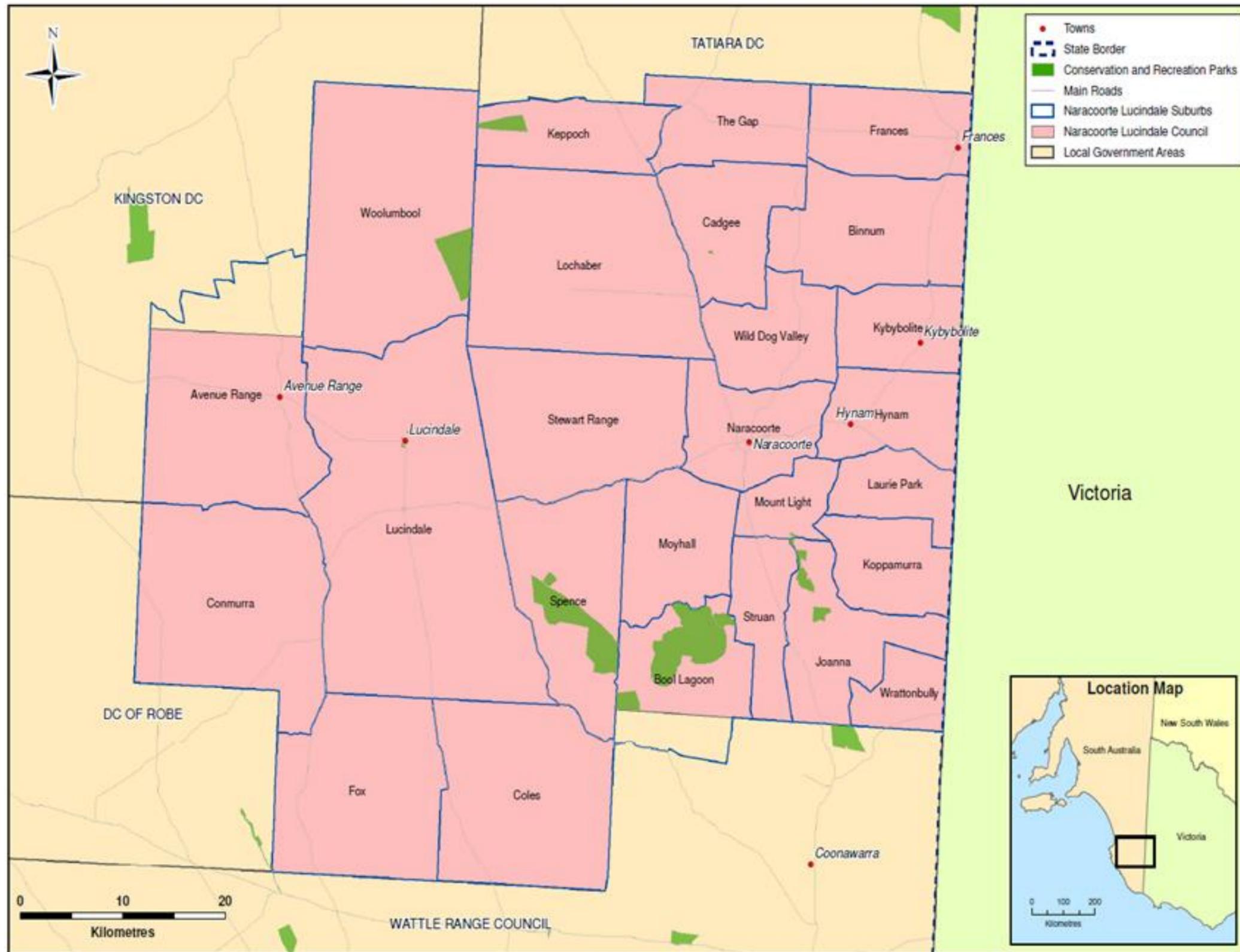


Figure 2: Naracoorte Lucindale Council Area

2.2 Changing Needs

In developing future directions the Open Space Strategy takes into account a number of factors which influence the way Council provides and manages open space for a number of competing interests, these include:

- Changing recreation and leisure patterns
- Population characteristics
- Demand for and economic value of open space
- Social value of open space
- Community needs and expectations
- Increased demand for structured sporting areas
- Protection and preservation of our cultural heritage
- Protection and preservation of the natural environment

There is a diverse range of parks, reserves, sporting and other recreational facilities within the Council. Single use sporting facilities place a resourcing requirement on the Council, the community and the clubs. As part of the overall strategy, consideration should be given to the sharing of space and facilities between sporting codes.

The impact of climate change and its effects on the environment have also influenced the development of the Open Space Strategy in terms of the management of open space. When limited to the parameters of this strategy, the effects of climate change can be addressed by a smarter approach to irrigation practices, the design of parks themselves and conservation of native vegetation and biodiversity assets that are more adapt at surviving in the local conditions.



2.3 Functions of Open Space

This section defines the different types of use (or functions) of an open space network. These functions (table 1) will assist in identifying the classifications for the open space network in Naracoorte Lucindale Council.

Table 1 – Functions of Open Space

Function of Open Space	
Road Reserve	Provides a buffer between properties and roads. They can provide amenity value and can accommodate network infrastructure (for example trails) linking open space and other key community destinations.
Local Open Space	To be accessible to all for relaxation and minor activity within walking distance (400-500m) of every household.
Neighbourhood Open Space	To cater for the needs of the 'local' community, these areas encourage longer stays and meet a number of both active and passive needs. People may use these areas deliberately and may be willing to travel further; therefore distribution may be within a maximum of 1 km of every household.
District Open Space	Encourages community interaction and celebration of the unique aspects of the area. May also attract specific deliberate use such as sport, exercising, walking the dog etc. As well as unstructured activity such as informal sport (tennis, basketball etc). As with Neighbourhood Parks, people may deliberately choose to visit and travel. Frequency may therefore be said to be within 1.5 to 2km of every household.
Regional Open Space	May include areas of significant importance, attraction or areas of cultural or historical significance etc. People may travel by car to visit such areas therefore their distribution may be less frequent and subject to need.
Network Open Space	This can include school reserves, cemeteries, road verges, creek lines, storm water channels as well as minor road networks that provide scope to incorporate open space features such as linear trails, revegetation opportunities and dedicated walking/cycling links. In Naracoorte Lucindale these may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rail corridors ○ On and Off Road Cycle Routes ○ Footpaths ○ Linear Park

2.4 Classification – Understanding the Framework

As mentioned in the previous section, there is an abundance of smaller pocket parks and larger community park across the Council. This provides an opportunity for Council to strategically understand and address provision to ensure there is a good supply and diversity of open space across the Council area.

Before this can be achieved however, a clearer understanding of open space classifications is required to determine both the current and future levels of open space requirements in the Council. Establishing such a framework for open space will assist Council in determining:

- The level of parks
- How these are and should be used
- Identifying areas of oversupply and/or undersupply
- How parks could or should be designed, and
- Where they should be optimally located

Ultimately this framework of understanding will guide both current and future thinking in relation to use and design of open space and will assist Council in both its strategic vision for open space and its day to day operations relating to management, maintenance and future asset replacement programmes (Figure 3).

The framework is therefore a tool to inform both current and future thinking in relation to open space management and should guide policy and management based on a multitude of needs across the community and based on a number of functions that acknowledge the social, environmental and economic values of open space as highlighted in Figure 1.

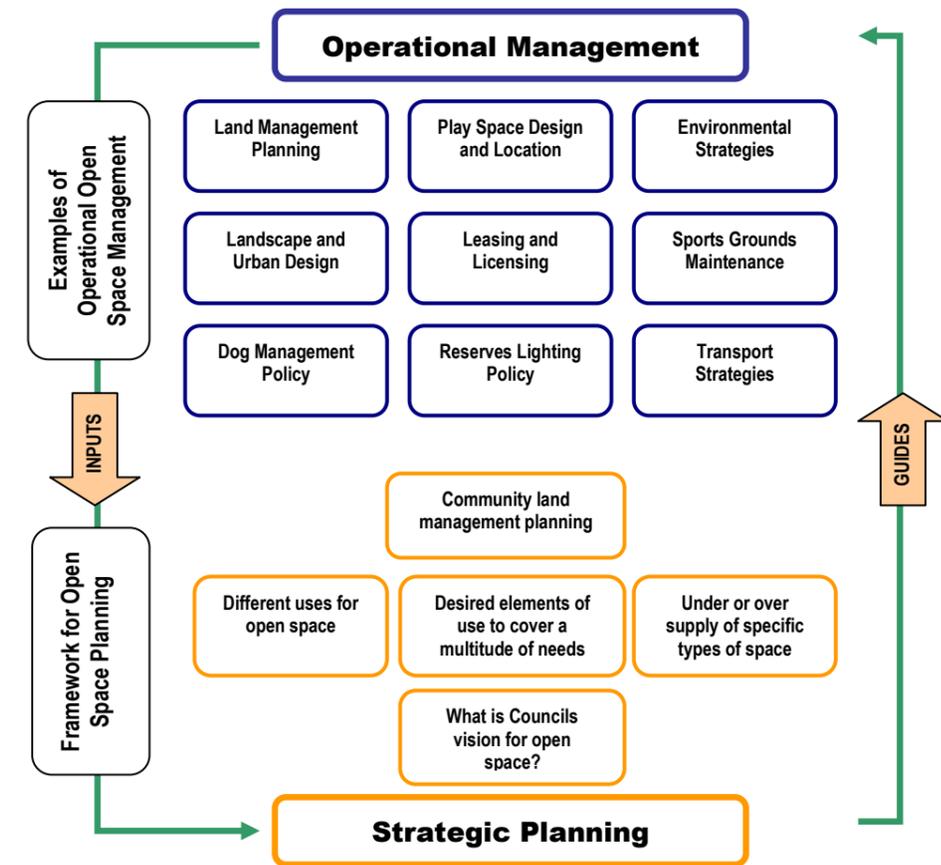


Figure 3: Strategic Framework for Open Space Planning

Band One Eighty SLS 2003

2.5 Elements of Use

A classification of a park can contain any or all of the elements of use (table 3), and the degree and quality of these elements will determine the classification of the park. It is common practice that each piece of open space, whether it is a park, reserve or trail, should have at least one element that is predominant which determines its classification.

The open space network should be viewed as a holistic entity to ensure that there is diversity in the open space experiences, based on access rather than determined by demographics or trends as these will invariably change over a relatively short period of time. Additionally the higher classification should always meet the requirements of the lower classification to avoid over supply and distribution, for example, if a reserve has a district level classification it should also met the elements of use provided to the community by a neighbourhood and local reserve.

2.6 Maintenance Levels

The resource allocation provided to the maintenance standards for differing 'elements of use' can vary greatly across an open space network. For example, a level 1 reserve (district or regional) would be an active area and would include structured sport, which from a maintenance perspective would require high levels of resource allocation, such as, mowing, line marking, turf management as well as in-ground irrigation and water use. At the other end of the range you have a level 4 and 5 which predominantly refers to road reserve. This maintenance level would have a minimal resource allocation and would have no infrastructure for irrigation and would most likely rely on natural rainfall.

The matrix (Table 2) shows how these two aspects interact and the appropriate level of maintenance verse element of use.

Table 2 – Classification Matrix

Park Classification Matrix		Maintenance focus			
		Low	3	2	High
Elements of Use	Low	Road(4/5)	3	2	1
	Local	X	X		
	Neighbourhood			X	
	District				X
	Regional				X
High	Network		X		

Table 3 – Elements of Use

Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Preserving remnant vegetation/ biodiversity▪ Recreating/ rehabilitating habitat▪ Infrastructure – storm water detention/flood mitigation
Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deliberate exercising▪ Exercising dogs▪ Structured sport▪ Unstructured active play and recreation▪ Youth recreation▪ Informal sport (e.g. a hit of tennis/ shooting hoops etc)
Passive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A sense of openness/ relaxation/ reflection▪ BBQ's▪ Parties and social gatherings
Cultural Identity and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Events/entertainment▪ Public art/memorials▪ Community gathering/social participation▪ Aesthetic. Contribution to amenity of area
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Adventure▪ Children's play
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Land/amenity value
Mixed Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Active and passive▪ Combination of any of the above

2.7 Proposed Classifications

The criteria for the classification framework can be refined by including additional elements. Each classification of park can contain any or all of the 'elements of use' and the degree and quality of these elements will determine the classification of the open space. As already mentioned in 2.6, each park should have at least one element that is predominant which determines its classification. This can also be stated as rather than focusing on the size of the park, their use and design will dictate their classification.

The open space system should be viewed as a holistic entity to ensure that there is diversity in experiences and based on access and even spatial distribution (distance from the home) rather than determined by demographics or trends as these will invariably change over relatively short periods of time. Additionally the higher classification should always meet the requirements of the lower classification to avoid over supply and distribution, and discusses land in terms of:

- Classification (catchment),
- Element(s) (use); and
- Levels of maintenance

While catchments (Figure 4) consider a direct distance from the home to the open space they are commonly used in a built-up urban environment where housing density and population are higher than in the Naracoorte Lucindale Council. For this strategy they are identified as a guide for the general population's accessibility to open space and not a hard and fast rule. Physical barriers such as train lines, main arterial roads, creeks and other 'obstacles' that can hinder access to open space must be considered when considering access. That is, while a reserve maybe located within the nominated catchment, barriers

pose restrictions and therefore Council may consider it appropriate to plan for and provide further opportunities for open space in such areas. Catchments within the framework should therefore be considered as a guide to assist Council in identifying gaps and opportunities for open space management and provision.

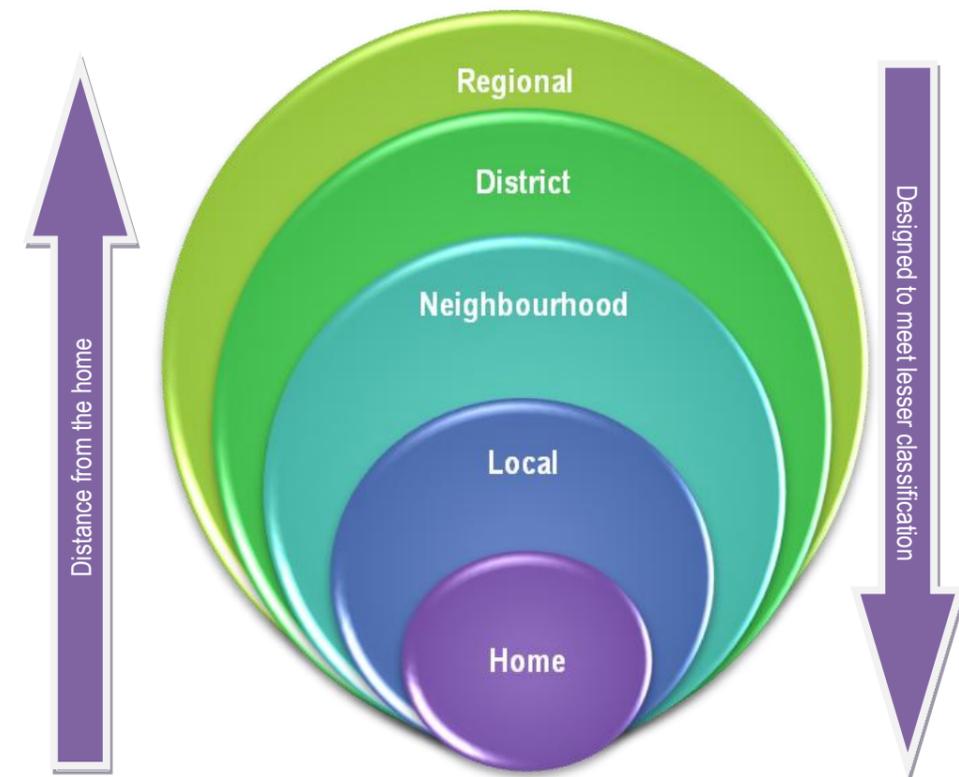


Figure 4: Open Space Classification Model

2.7.1 Local Open Space

Local open space assumes space catering for the immediate community within a 500 metre (or walking distance) radius. That is every household and resident should have within walking distance of their home a local park that can be used for relaxation and/or informal low key activities. This is based on a principle that the whole community will have access to open space and should therefore include the aged, infirm, people without transport, parents with young children and people with disabilities should all have equal access to green space within close (walking) distance proximity of their homes.

Local open space will have a predominant function of being passive and therefore designed accordingly. Such space may be used incidentally (e.g. walking through a park to the shops) or deliberately (e.g. to relax). Key design elements could therefore include:

- Passive non-irrigated area
- Seating (natural or bench)
- Minimal play equipment (if required) catering primarily for junior play opportunities (0-6)
- Low key planting
- Shade (natural)



Jubilee Park in Lucindale is a good example of local open space

2.7.2 Neighbourhood Open Space

Neighbourhood level open space caters for broader catchments and is distributed within 1km of every household. It is designed to meet the needs of the whole family. Such areas include additional play areas for senior play (6-12) and areas for informal sport and recreation such as kick-to-kick. These parks attract greater levels of use and encourage purpose visitation (longer stays) and can therefore include appropriate amenities such as toilets and areas for family picnics and social gatherings. Key elements include

As per local plus

- Picnic / BBQ facilities
- Informal active areas with passive elements for family recreation
- Playspace if required for junior and senior play 0-12
- Water fountains
- Potentially toilets
- Community art or a special feature



Mcternan Reserve in Naracoorte is a good example of neighbourhood open space

2.7.3 District Open Space

District open space considers the wider community and areas that people deliberately choose to visit for the purpose of a specific activity. Elements may therefore include:

- Sports Fields: specific structured use of open space
- Youth Parks: multi use areas
- Dog exercise areas: Off leash and/or purpose built parks
- Cultural/Civic: events and/or ceremonies
- Environmental: specific areas of interest or 'wilderness'



The Ovals in Naracoorte and Lucindale are district level open space

2.7.4 Regional Open Space

Regional open space considers the broader community and potentially areas where people will travel much longer distances to access a facility and/or open space feature. Whilst not referring specifically to the Naracoorte Lucindale Council, regional space assumes areas with the following key elements:

- Cultural: Areas that have a unique historical or cultural significance
- Foreshores and Beaches
- Linear Parks
- Environmental: Areas of natural significance or 'wilderness'
- Venues and Arenas: Areas of open space for specific events (sporting or other) that attract local and regional tourism



The Swimming Lake is potentially the only regional open space within the Council

2.7.5 Network Open Space

This relates to areas where the primary role is not necessarily open space but where such areas are complementary and can serve as an addition to primary open space areas. This includes school reserves, cemeteries, road verges, creek lines, storm water channels as well as minor road networks that provide scope to incorporate open space features such as linear trails, revegetation opportunities and dedicated walking/cycling links.



The Creek Walk in Naracoorte is an excellent example of network open space

Part 3: The State of Play – Where are we now?

3.1 Overview of Open Space in the Naracoorte Lucindale Council

For the purpose of this study the scope of research is targeted predominantly at Councils reserves and parks that are used for and offer a number of opportunities, such as sports fields, playgrounds, civic areas and creek corridors.

There were 90 open space sites identified within the review of the Naracoorte Lucindale Council. The majority of these sites make-up the parks and reserves located throughout the Council but also include open space in the form of cemeteries through to leased land and empty house lots. The *Open Space Strategy: Background Report* outlines all the land parcels reviewed and identifies the key features and provides general comments on each site. There are still a large number of road reserves that have not been included in the review that may have potential to support network open space, for example trails.

Generally speaking open space in the Naracoorte Lucindale Council is well maintained but is traditional in design with much duplication of local and neighbourhood parks / land parcels. There is also a generous supply of land for individual sporting activities, with very little in the way of shared facilities and/or playing surfaces. The large amount of road reserve throughout the Council is maintained to a high standard which may be to a higher level than required.



Centenary Avenue Reserve Memorial Lucindale



Naracoorte Town Square and soundshell

3.2 Community perceptions

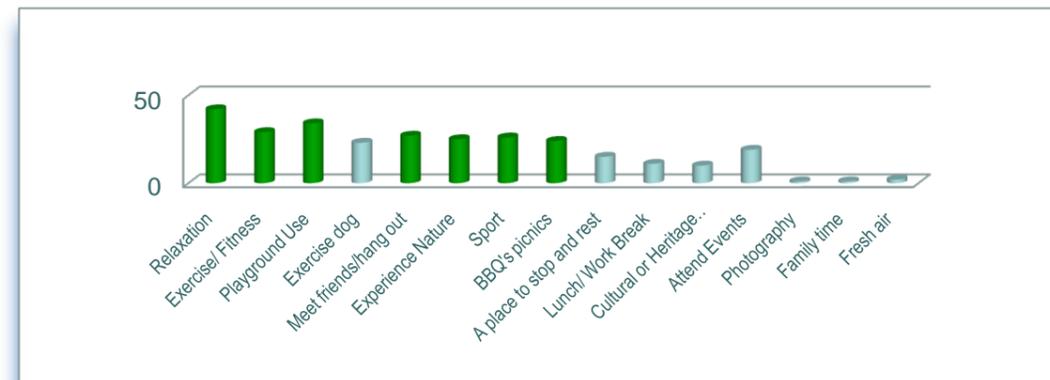
The consultation process and survey feedback provided an excellent insight into open space provision and the aspirations, requirements and diversity of the community that uses it. The analysis of this work and the many points raised has provided a number of key themes which are outlined below:

- **Safe** open space
- Natural **well managed** open space
- **Diversity** of use without being “on top of” other users
- **Infrastructure** reflective of need and planning in place to prepare for future requirements
- Linkages and an integrated **trail network**
- The **uniqueness** of the region, its towns and people

These key areas will inform the development of the guiding principles for the **Open Space Strategy**.

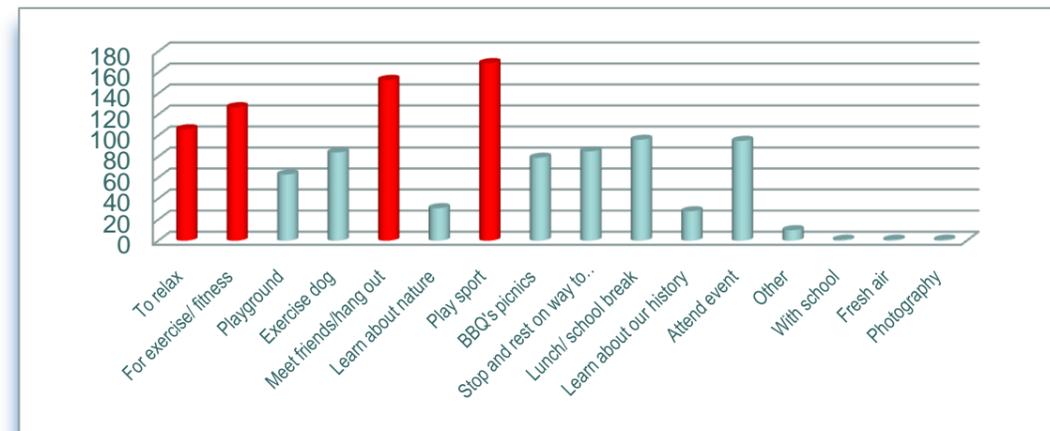
The full analysis of consultation and research associated with the project, along with the specific comments, concerns and thoughts of the community and youth is provided in the *Open Space Strategy: Background Report*.

Table 4 – Reasons for Using Open Space (Adult)



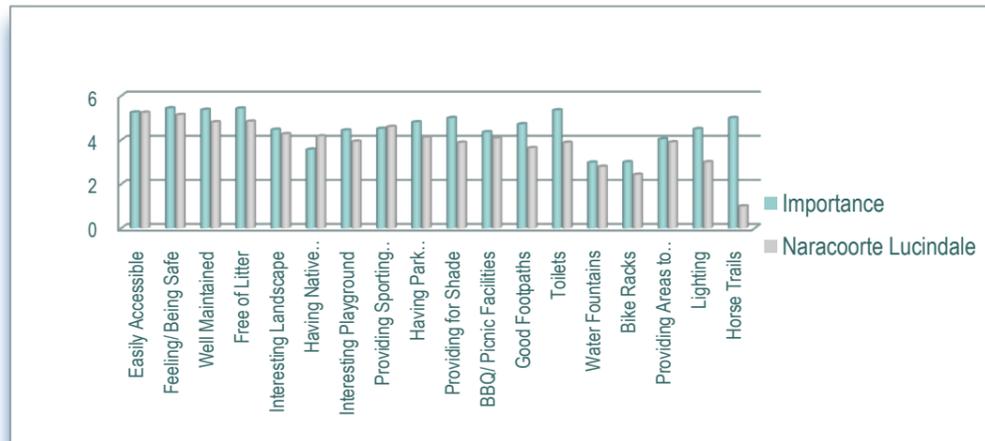
- Relaxation /Playgrounds
- Play sport / exercise / meet friends
- Experience nature / picnic

Table 5 – Reasons for Using Open Space (Youth)



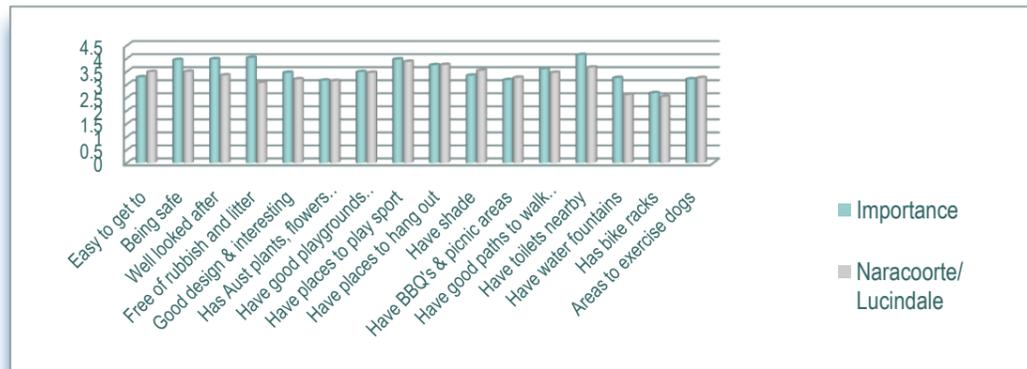
- Play sport / exercise
- Meet friends / hang out
- Relax

Table 6 – Comparison between Wants and Reality (Adult)



- Horse Trails / good footpaths
- Lighting / toilets / shade / park furniture and seating
- Safe / well maintained / free of litter

Table 7 – Comparison between Wants and Reality (Youth)



- Water fountains / toilets
- Safe / well maintained / free of litter

3.3 Gaps and Opportunities

Naracoorte Lucindale Council is well provided for in terms of open space, while it is not uncommon in rural areas, it does identify a number of points that can assist in providing a more effective and efficient open space network for the residents and visitors of Naracoorte Lucindale Council.

- Consider diversity in design of existing open space and parks; this can provide the flexibility required to make a park relevant to diversity of the users.
- Highlight cultural and/or historical elements of Naracoorte Lucindale Council area through parks and open space.
- Look at opportunities to improve links between open space where they are in close proximity.
- Address separate high quality areas for activities such as sport, youth needs and playgrounds.
- Optimise the use of sports fields and facilities through shared use; the creation of sporting hubs.
- Consider well designed, innovative playspaces that are more than traditional 'playgrounds' and incorporate play into an open space framework.
- There is an oversupply of open space throughout the Council; strategies should be put in place to bring the open space network into a more balanced ratio from a population requirement and the associated resourcing.

Part 4: Develop a Strategy – Responding to the issues and challenges

4.1 Overview

It is clear to see that there are a number of opportunities and challenges facing Council in the way it manages and supplies open space in the parks setting. Limited financial resources and abundant supply of space pose significant opportunities and challenges for park and open space management and therefore innovative strategies must be developed.

To maximise open space benefits the Open Space Strategy must also align closely with various compatible initiatives that influence the provision of appropriate services and facilities related to open space. These range from the Naracoorte Lucindale Strategic Management Plan 2009 – 2014 to Asset Management Plans that effect open space; all the documents that have been identified as having an alignment are outlined in section 1.5.

In the main towns of Naracoorte and Lucindale, there is an plentiful supply of open space, land found to be duplicating need could be sold and the money raised (council owned land only) put back into the development of the open space network either via enhancement of open space areas, for example planting, pest and weed eradication in North and South Parklands, and/or infrastructure to support community needs.

The development of trail networks to allow for safe cycling and walking in selected streets and green corridors as well as the utilisation of the disused rail corridor will provide opportunities to link key recreational and community features. The use of the rail corridors and the development of a bike link along Caves

Road to the Naracoorte Caves for tourism opportunities will provide a key point of difference for the Council.

Given the challenges and identified issues within this report, the strategic response to future provision is discussed in terms of:

- A Vision for open space across Naracoorte Lucindale Council
- Guiding principles
- Generic strategies and
- Specific strategies for identified key open space sites.

4.2 Vision

The Vision for open space in Naracoorte Lucindale Council is:

“An open space network that provides an accessible range of active and passive recreation opportunities while at the same time recognising and preserving the natural and cultural environments that are significant to our community”

4.3 Guiding principles

The guiding principles below are the basis of the Open Space Strategy and provide a framework for the goals, objectives and strategies discussed further on in this document. They have been developed through consultation, research, trends and geographic analysis.

Table 8 – Guiding Principles

Quality	The quality of open space is essential to ensure optimum use.
Diverse age groups	Open space should be provided to people of all age groups, including children, the youth and seniors.
Diverse needs	The diverse needs for active and passive recreation should be provided for. A full range of recreation facilities, parks and services should be available to the whole community. These facilities should also be accessible by people with a disability (DDA compliant).
Change over time	The open space network should be responsive to changing demands, flexible in design and capable of providing opportunities for multiple uses.
Distribution	The Council should strive for an accessible and equitable distribution of different types of open space facilities throughout the district.
Accessibility	Open space should be accessible to the whole community.
Linkages	An integrated open space network should be developed through linkages between different areas of open space as well as other community facilities and land uses.
Safety and Security	Users of open space and associated facilities are entitled to feel safe at all times.
Sustainability	The open space network should provide a sustainable balance between the social needs of the community, environmental protection, cultural and economic value.
Waterwise	Design open space to detain stormwater runoff and avoid impacting sensitive areas. Improved water use and irrigation methods will also be critical to managing open space in an effective and efficient manner.

4.4 Generic Strategies

The following broad generic strategies (GS) relate to the general provision and management of the open space in the Naracoorte Lucindale Council.

Priorities are suggested in terms of:

- High (H) = within the next 18 months (to 2012)
- Medium (M) = within the next 3 years (to 2013)
- Low (L) = within the next 5 years (to 2015)
- Maintain (Mt) = Ongoing Maintenance

Generic Strategy	Guiding Principles supported	Action	Priority
GS1 Green Space	Quality Diverse age groups Diverse needs	As a minimum level of provision, Council will strive to provide a local park within 300m of every home in the towns of Naracoorte and Lucindale. It is important to note that if a neighbourhood park or larger is within this catchment that they can cater for the local needs.	L
	Distribution Accessibility	Ensure the North and South Parklands are maintained in line with their environmental status while ensuring the opportunities they provide the community for active and passive recreation are maintained, and where appropriate enhanced.	Mt L
GS2 Park Classification and Design	Sustainability Change over time Waterwise Diverse needs	Adopt the hierarchy of open space as outlined in this strategy and utilise the framework as a basis of design elements for all parks. Look at offering diversity in the design options for parks and reserves that include playspace, historical and environmental sites and features.	H
GS3 Playspace Framework	Diverse needs Change over time Safety and	In line with the classification system for open space, develop a playspace hierarchy to include elements of the playspace development model (information provided in the <i>Open Space Strategy: Background Report</i>) for parks and reserves across Naracoorte Lucindale Council. This should be implemented within Councils budget (and asset plans)	M

	security	as individual parks are upgraded. Ensure that Australian Standards are met.	
GS4 Network / Trail System	Diverse age groups Diverse needs Linkages Sustainability Safety and security	The development of an integrated walkway and cycle way system is recommended as a top priority. This will require the review of the Naracoorte Township Bike Walking Path Master Plan and then the development of a master plan for the walkway / cycleway network for the entire Council. This work would focus on the following key elements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Filling the gaps in the existing network - Connecting open space with neighbourhoods and key community locations, for example shops. - Extending the trail network via the utilisation of the disused rail corridors and road reserves. - Where possible, provide walkways and cycle ways in the 'green corridors'. - Continue to enhance and maintain the Creek Walk as one of the Councils premier trails. 	H
GS5 Grant Funding / Private Sponsorship	Quality Change over time Distribution Linkages Safety and security Sustainability	Various government agencies run grant funding programmes for open space, sports and community related activities. Council should increase its level of submissions for grants to assist in the implementation of the Open Space Strategy and the development of associated facilities. In addition to grant funding, a more active approach should be undertaken to seek private sponsorship of some parks and their assets. This does not necessarily require a high commitment in funds from the private sector but more so an active involvement by local private enterprise in promoting and supporting the benefits of open space to the community. Further work should be done in developing appropriate policies. A list of grant funding opportunities is outlined in section 3.6.	H
GS6 Land Management	Quality Change over time Distribution Accessibility Linkages Sustainability Waterwise	Acquisition of land may come from a number of means including purchase, contribution or donation. A strong policy is required to determine the process for acquisition and disposal of land. The policy should highlight and align with GS1 with a view of utilising funds generated through the sale of land not supporting the strategy for the development or purchase of other more strategic parcels of open space. Land swaps could also be considered in areas of greatest need. The policy should also provide guidance for the management of bequeathed land.	H

<p>GS7 Sporting Hubs and Facility Management</p>	<p>Quality Diverse needs Change over time Distribution Accessibility Linkages Sustainability Safety and security Waterwise</p>	<p>The development of a sporting hub or precinct in Naracoorte and Lucindale should be developed (via Master Plans) to consolidate club infrastructure and reduce maintenance costs for the Council. Attention should be given to managing the facilities which occupy the open space network; with facilities that are identified to be underutilised considered for disposal or rationalisation.</p>	<p>H</p>
<p>GS8 Community Land Management Plan</p>	<p>Quality Diverse age groups Diverse needs Change over time Distribution Accessibility Linkages Safety and security Sustainability Water wise</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Community Land Management Plans be amended to reflect the classification system recommended in 2.7.</p>	<p>M</p>

4.5 Key Strategies

The following key strategies with their key actions have been broken down into the recommended classification hierarchy as identified in section 2.7 of this Open Space Strategy.

Priorities are suggested in terms of:

- High (H) = within the next 18 months (to 2012)
- Medium (M) = within the next 3 years (to 2013)
- Low (L) = within the next 5 years (to 2015)
- Maintain (Mt) = Ongoing Maintenance

Key Strategy	Generic Strategy Link	Actions	Priority
KS1 Regional Parks	GS1 GS2	Manage and maintain the swimming lake and its associated facilities (including the surrounds) for the enjoyment of the community and regional tourism.	Mt
KS2 District Parks	GS2 GS7	Develop a Master Plan for the consolidation of sporting infrastructure at the Naracoorte Sports Park. This should focus on providing efficiencies with shared facilities, administration, volunteers as well as reducing maintenance and water costs. The Master Plan should also consider playspace and other community infrastructure.	H
	GS2 GS7	Develop a Master Plan for the consolidation of sporting infrastructure in Lucindale to the Lucindale Sports Oval. This should focus on providing efficiencies via shared facilities, administration, volunteers as well as reducing maintenance and water costs. This would also look at including a youth facility and play space.	H

Ideally the Master Plans for Naracoorte Sports Park and Lucindale Sports Oval should be prepared simultaneously as the two main towns within the Council area to ensure the coordination of facilities and sporting activities is appropriate for current and future requirements. The use of "Place making" principles which support an inclusive community planning approach are recommended to support this work.

	GS2 GS7	Develop a Master Plan for Memorial Parklands / Oval that will consider the diversity of use and set out a planned approach to sporting, community and environmental agendas.		H
KS3 Neighbourhood Parks	GS1 GS3	Use the Playspace Development Model (as outlined in part 3, section 3.5) to develop a playspace hierarchy for Neighbourhood Parks across NLC As outlined under GS10 this classification of reserve should consider “whole of family” needs		M
KS4 Local Parks	GS3	Use the Playspace Development Model (information provided in the <i>Open Space Strategy: Background Report</i>) to develop a playspace hierarchy for Parks across the Council.		M
	GS5 GS6	Council seeks opportunities to reduce its management costs of some local reserves by selling off identified local reserves in southern Naracoorte, for example look at downsizing Janz St Reserve and using proceeds towards the development and/or upgrade of open space infrastructure.		H
	GS5 GS6	Sell Clover Crescent Reserve (Pinkerton Road) and Gilbert Drive Reserves		M
KS5 Network Open Space	GS4	Develop a whole of Council Trail Network Master Plan that addresses the key elements identified in GS4. Opportunities that should be expanded on as part of this plan include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extending the trail network via the utilisation of the disused railway corridors. This can create a rail trail which could extent all the way to Kingston via Lucindale and provide regional tourism opportunities. ▪ Develop a trail connecting the world heritage Naracoorte Caves with a cycleway along Old Cave Rd. ▪ Link the gaps in the current network, but also review opportunities to link points of interest, including workplace’s and schools in Naracoorte and Lucindale. 	H

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to manage and enhance the Creek Walk. 	
	GS4	With the large amount of road reserve, safe cycling / walking paths coupled with appropriate revegetation and stormwater usage should be developed where possible on appropriate streets. These opportunities should be identified when the Trail Network Master Plan is developed.		M
	GS4	Develop a looped trail network plan for Lucindale. The trail network would utilise the parklands that ring the township and the decommissioned rail corridor. Again this would be identified as part of the whole of Council Trail Network Master Plan.		H
KS6 Road Reserves	GS6	Where appropriate reduce the maintenance costs of road reserves by removing grass and other plants and replacing with road base / aggregate.		L
KS7 General	GS2	Investigate transforming the Naracoorte Town square into a more people friendly area; making people the priority between the green area and the shops.		M
	GS 1 GS2	Set up an internal working group to monitor and drive actions in this strategy, with a first desk top strategy review occurring in 3 years (2013).		H
	GS2	Investigation should be undertaken which looks at the development of landscaped / artistic entry statements at highly visible locations. An example of this would be the use of the Duck Pond Reserve, as you enter Lucindale, as an arts / landscaped entrance park.		M
	GS6	Formalise a Joint Use Agreement with Lucindale Area School. This also applies to any other school or state government organisation that wants to share open space and it associated facilities.		H
	GS6	Ensure all lessees of public land (particularly parks and reserves) have current up-to-date leases and / or licenses for their use. The leasing of land and facilities will be a key aspect to the success of any sporting hub development.		H

4.6 Funding Opportunities²

The State and Federal Government provide funding opportunities for open space development through the following programs.

Table 9 – Funding opportunities

Fund	Administrator	General
Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Grant	Office for Recreation and Sport	Grants supporting the development of new or existing sustainable facilities that provide opportunities for active recreation and/or sporting activities to meet community needs. Grants may total between \$20,000 and \$500,000 and the total cost of projects must exceed \$200,000. Applicants must be able to verify that they can at least match the level of funding requested.
Tourism Development Fund	SA Tourism Commission	Grants are available for up to \$50,000 for supporting tourism infrastructure (including signs and facilities) on a matched funding basis.
Open Space Grant Funding	Planning SA	Funding for open space acquisition, development and planning is provided on a matched basis. This fund is aimed at improving the public realm for passive, unstructured recreation or conservation purposes.
Places for People	Planning SA	Funding for Councils to strategically plan, design and develop public places of community significance. Objective of the program is to help create new public places or revitalise existing public spaces that contribute to the social, cultural and economic life of the community they serve. Projects must be carried out on land with free public access. Councils must ensure a commitment to strategic collaborative practices and high quality, sustainable outcomes. Funding is available under the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Urban Design • Design and Contract Documentation • Capital Works • Preference will be given to projects that have at least a 50% Council contribution.
SA Urban Forests Million Trees Program	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	This fund is used for developing community based revegetation works.
Natural Resource Management Funds	South East Natural Resource Management	The South East Natural Resource Management Board receives levy funds which the Board uses for integrated water management projects.

² The funding opportunities identified are accurate as at April 2011, but may vary in the future depending on government policy decisions.

	Board	
Art for Public Places	Arts SA	This program provides minor funding for the development of public art and is administered through Arts SA.
Federal Government Programs		<p>The Federal Government supports a range of programs providing grants, which can be accessed for suitable projects, upon application to the relevant authority. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Sites • Biodiversity Programs • Envirofund • GreenCorps (Australian Conservation Volunteers)
State Wide Enhancement Program (StEP)	Office for Recreation and Sport	<p>Supports a range of funding initiatives including core activities and programs/services that have a regional or state-wide impact for the active recreation and sport industry.</p> <p>Funding is available under 2 streams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Organisation Support Funding- Funding to support the delivery of core programs and services. 2. Sport and Active Recreation Project Funding - Funding for projects that meet one or more of the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase community participation in sport and active recreation at all levels, • Improve the quality of sport and active recreation programs and services that are available to South Australians, • Support the development of talented/elite athletes.

Table 10 – Bike Trail Funding Opportunities**South Australia**

Fund	Administrator	L G Eligibility	Dates	General
SA Black Spot Program	Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure	Yes		Directed towards bringing about significant reductions in crashes by the identification and treatment of locations and sections of road that have an unsatisfactory casualty crash record or that have a significant crash potential. Funds are specifically available to Councils as subsidy funding for cycling safety infrastructure projects. Subsidy funding is two-thirds of the total project cost. Council is required to provide the remaining third.
State Bicycle Fund	Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure	Yes		This is subsidy funding to local Councils on an “up to dollar for dollar basis” for general cycling initiatives such as: the development of Local Area Bicycle Plans, the development of cycling networks by constructing on road bicycle lanes or off road bicycle paths, bicycle parking and the promotion of cycling and cycling facilities. Subsidy funding is up to 50% of the total project cost. Council is required to provide the remaining amount.

National

AusLink Roads to Recovery Program	Department of Infrastructure and Transport	Yes	Ongoing	<p>Funding is provided for the construction, maintenance and upgrade of roads and is provided given on the condition that the Council has maintained expenditure on roads from its own sources. ‘Roads’, according to the AusLink Act, includes each of the following when in association with a road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traffic signs and control equipment • street lighting equipment • vehicular ferries • bridges or tunnels, including pedestrian bridges or tunnels • bicycle paths <p>A bicycle paths ‘associated with a road’ is one that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is located within the road reservation; or • where removed from the road reservation for safety purposes, provides a route between points on the road that is shorter than or broadly similar in distance to the road route.
-----------------------------------	--	-----	---------	---

4.7 Conclusion and Summary

The Naracoorte Lucindale Council is a typical rural Council; that is it has a large land area and a small population. This creates some significant challenges for the management, supply and use of public open space.

As this is the first Open Space Strategy for the Council the document attempts to clarify the role and nature of open space and provides Council with a framework of understanding which will assist in both the strategic and operational decisions in relation to management of open space. It also sets out a list of priorities and actions based on perceived and physical gaps in provision as well as a series of broad strategies for open space policy development.

The Open Space Strategy has identified a large number of high priority actions and due to this and it being a starting point in the strategic planning of open space in the Council it is recommended that a working group be formed from key staff within the Council to monitor and plan for the delivery of the strategy. It is also recommended that this group (or another) undertakes a desktop review in three (3) years from Council endorsement of the strategy. This will ensure the initial direction is still pertinent for the Council and new actions can be added to continue the strategy, and ultimately the delivery of a relevant and accessible open space network.