

5 DRAFT COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL FACILITIES STRATEGIC PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan provides direction for the future planning, provision and management of Hornsby Shire Council's (Council) community and cultural facilities over the next 10 years. It is a revision of Council's previous *Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan 2015* and was placed on public exhibition from 19 November 2020 to 31 January 2021.
- A total of 78 submissions were received from the community during the public exhibition process, primarily focused on the recommendations for Brooklyn, Cherrybrook and Hornsby. Two, in-person informal workshops have been held in March and June 2021 with Councillors to work through these community submissions.
- Following analysis, amendments are recommended to the specific strategies identified for Brooklyn and Cherrybrook generally as follows:
 - Brooklyn – the amended recommendation promotes consolidation of existing facilities into a consolidated multi-purpose centre of 100-200sqm however no longer specifies that this should be the existing Meeting Room. Further, the analysis section for the north eastern district in the draft Strategy has also been updated to note the Lower Hawkesbury Aquatic and Recreation Association's (LHARA) proposal for a new facility in Parsley Bay and community support for such.
 - Cherrybrook – the amended recommendation maintains the need for a district level hub with a 1,000 sqm library and 300 sqm multipurpose community space, however no longer designates the preferred location as the Cherrybrook Station Precinct. This would enable Council to undertake further detailed feasibility analysis on various options (including around Greenway Park) before settling a preferred location.
- It is recommended that Council adopt the revised Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan attached to Director's Report No. CE15/21.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council adopt the draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan shown as Attachment 2 to Director's Report No. CE15/21.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Report is to provide Council with a summary of the community feedback received in respect of the draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan and to seek the adoption of the revised plan.

BACKGROUND

At the November 2020 General Meeting, Council considered Director's Report No. CE13/20 and resolved that:

1. *'Council adopt the draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan for the purposes of public exhibition.'*

The Plan was placed on exhibition from 19 November 2020 to 31 January 2021. During the exhibition period 78 submissions were received. Two in-person, informal Councillor workshops were held in March and June 2021 to work through these community submissions.

A copy of the submissions received can be found in Attachment 1.

This report considers the feedback received during the exhibition period and makes recommendations with respect to changes to the draft Strategy.

DISCUSSION

Elton Consulting have prepared the draft Plan to provide Council with strategic direction in respect of the management and administration of Council's community and cultural facilities over the next 10 years. The draft Plan is focussed on the following questions:

- What principles and directions should guide planning for facilities?
- Where should facilities be located?
- What spaces and services should they include?
- What size should facilities be?
- How could management of facilities, including leases and licences, be improved?
- What is a sustainable approach to fees and charges?
- What strategies should Council prioritise?

A series of nine principles has been used to guide the planning and provision of community facilities in the Shire. These include:

- A coordinated network
- Centrally located within districts and regions
- Serving identified social and cultural needs
- Making best use of existing facilities
- Financially sustainable
- Multipurpose and flexible
- Friendly and welcoming
- Accessible

- Near public space

The draft Plan provides 8 high level, long term directions which form the foundation of the draft Plan's strategic intent. Those directions are:

1	Locate sub-regional facilities in Hornsby Town Centre, as part of the Hornsby Town Centre revitalisation.
2	Focus on developing multipurpose district hubs at Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook and Galston.
3	Do not create or provide land for new single purpose, standalone facilities.
4	In the first instance, specific use spaces, which are identified as adding value to the community based on new or emerging demand, should be co-located in existing district hubs. If district hub co-location is not possible, consider locating specific use spaces in other existing and compatible facilities. Providing additional floor space should not be considered.
5	Work with Scouts NSW and Girl Guides NSW to renew all leases for scout and guide halls, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitara Guide Hall • halls not maintained to a safe standard • halls without demonstrated activity and regular and systematic use.
6	Where spaces in existing sporting facilities are suitable or where new sporting facilities are being planned (e.g. Waitara Oval), facilitate equitable community access and use through broader community hire and standardised fees.
7	Investigate alternative booking system technologies to enhance usability for customers and staff, including online functionality.
8	Continue to apply consistency and sustainability of fees and charges

CONSULTATION

Following Council's consideration of the draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic in November 2020, Council publicly exhibited the draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan for a period of 42 days. The public exhibition was progressed via the following channels:

- Direct notification with:
 - Volunteer Management Committees.
 - Community Centre User Groups.
 - Tenants in leased facilities.
 - Scouts and Guides.
- Advertisement on Council's website – Have Your Say.
- Advertisement on Future Hornsby website.
- Council's eNewsletter
- Emails to Future Hornsby database (users who registered for updates on the Sustainability or "all topics" under the Accelerated LEP Review).

- Social Media (Facebook, LinkedIn and Localised).
- Advertising and Mayor's message - Bush Telegraph, Galston & Glenorie News, Dural Roundup, Hornsby Kuring-gai Post and Living Heritage.

Arising from the exhibition a total of 78 submissions were received. The submissions can be broken down to districts as follows.

- All Districts 2
- Central District 17
- North Eastern District 29
- North Western District 1
- Southern District 29

Key themes arising from the submissions are outlined below:

- Opposition to the proposed recommendations for Brooklyn, and would like a larger community facility committed to at Parsley Bay (28 submissions)
- The proposed location of a new Cherrybrook Community Centre and Library is not suitable and should be more centrally located near the shopping village/existing community centre (26 submissions)
- The timeframe identified in the s7.11 plan and reflected in the draft Strategy for a delivery of a new Hornsby Regional Library and Community Centre is too distant, with facilities required in the more immediate future (15 submissions)
- Support for the proposed strategy for Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre (2 submissions); would like to ensure that Wallarobba retains capacity to host affordable community scale exhibitions (1 submission)
- Concern around maintenance scheduling/resourcing of existing facilities in Pennant Hills and proposed fees/charges for any new facilities especially for non-profit organisations (2 submissions)
- Galston Library should be bigger and offer full library services (1 submission)

Summary of Strategic Direction Feedback

The community did not raise concerns with the high level, long term directions listed earlier in this Report and it is recommended that Council adopt these directions as exhibited.

Specific District Recommendations

The draft Plan also makes specific district-based recommendations. The majority of community feedback received through the consultation period was focussed on these district-based recommendations. This feedback is included in submissions which are included at Appendix 1.

Having considered the community feedback, it is recommended that a number of specific district-based recommendations are amended as follows:

Area	Original Recommendation	Revised Recommendation	Comment
<p>North Eastern (Brooklyn)</p>	<p>A space of approximately 100-200sqm is likely to be suitable for multiple community uses in Brooklyn. A suitable existing facility (up to 200sqm with hall/s and meeting room/s) should become a focus for consolidated uses. In the existing facilities, the most suitable would be Brooklyn Meeting Room (138sqm).</p>	<p>Consolidate existing facilities (Baden Powell Hall, Brooklyn Leisure & Learning, and 10 Dangar Road) into a consolidated multi-purpose community facility of 100-200sqm for Brooklyn.</p>	<p>Community feedback did not support the original recommendation for community facilities to be consolidated into the existing Meeting Room.</p> <p>Community submissions instead supported the Lower Hawkesbury Aquatic and Recreation Association's (LHARA) proposal for a new multi-purpose facility at Parsley Bay and that it should be included in the draft Strategy.</p> <p>Considering community feedback, a revised recommendation is proposed that is still focussed on consolidation of spaces in Brooklyn, however the Meeting Room is no longer specified as the preferred location for consolidated uses.</p> <p>The analysis section for the north eastern district of the draft Strategy has also been updated to note the LHARA proposal for a new facility in Parsley Bay and community support for such. Whilst this does not extend to specifically recommending the LHARA proposal in the key strategies for the North Eastern District, it also does not nominate</p>

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Area	Original Recommendation	Revised Recommendation	Comment
			<p>the Meeting Room allowing flexibility going forward.</p> <p>This approach would allow the community support for the LHARA proposal to be recognised in a Council strategic document and enable the community to continue to advocate for and seek external funding for the proposal.</p>

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A substantial number of community submissions also focussed on the perceived delay in delivering the proposed new Hornsby Facilities and that these facilities are required in the immediate future. It is understood that these submissions related to page 23 of the draft Strategy that reflected funding priorities in Council's adopted s7.11 along with estimated timeframes. In this regard it is important to note that the s7.11 Plan was adopted in 2020 prior to this update of the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan, and prior to the commencement of the Hornsby Town Centre project that is still in progress. It is most likely that the delivery of new Hornsby Facilities would align with any redevelopment of the Hornsby Town Centre following the conclusion of the Hornsby Town Centre project. The draft Strategy has been updated to remove reference to estimated s7.11 timeframes.

Changes made in response to the originally exhibited draft Strategy have been shown in a comparison support file posted on Council's website: <https://future.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/draft-community-cultural-facilities-strategic-plan/>

BUDGET

Council's s7.11 development contributions plan identifies \$83.5M in capital expenditure across Council's community and cultural facility portfolio over the coming decade aligned to the 2015 Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan. Should Council adopt the draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan attached to Director's Report No. CE15/21, the s7.11 Plan would need to be updated such that its work schedule aligns with the Strategic Plan.

Council needs to consider the above with caution as the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has recently tabled legislation in the NSW Parliament that outlines substantial changes to the collection of development contributions (both s7.11 and s7.12 contributions). The changes proposed are quite extensive and will have a substantial impact on both the amount of contributions that can be collected and what infrastructure can be provided via these contributions. This and other proposed changes

within the legislation will have material ramifications on Council's capacity to deliver, significantly needed infrastructure as a result of population growth and new development in the Shire. It should be noted that the State proposes, via this legislation to introduce new state charges on development.

Notwithstanding, it is noted that the draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan is a high-level, strategic document that outlines Council's approach to the future provision of community and cultural facilities. Implementation of specific recommendations contained within the draft Strategy would occur through the development of Council's Delivery Program, annual budget and Operational Plan and would be subject to the strategic priorities of Council, the availability and allocation of resources by Council.

Council has a strong track record of financial responsibility and a quadruple bottom line approach, including financial sustainability considerations, when making decisions and committing to new projects and programs is critical.

POLICY

The draft Plan sets the high-level strategic direction for Council's ongoing provision of community facilities.

CONCLUSION

The draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan details a strategy for Council's future provision of community facilities. The recommendations contained in the draft Plan have been the subject of extensive community consultation over a period of months and a number of changes have been made to detailed recommendations in the Plan for Brooklyn and Cherrybrook on the basis of this consultation.

The overall eight key strategic directions of the Plan remain unchanged.

If adopted, the draft Plan will inform future Delivery Programs and Operational Plans such that the goals of the draft Plan are achieved.



RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

The officer responsible for the preparation of this Report is the Manager Community Facilities and Projects – Darren Crumpler, who can be contacted on 9847 6842.

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Attachments:

1.  Submissions - draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan
2.  draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan