

Public Open Space Policy

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1. POLICY

The Central Coast Council wishes to establish an open space network that provides for a range of active and passive recreation opportunities, that is accessible, fit for purpose, enhances natural and cultural values, and offers an amenable environment for all forms of active and passive recreation.

The Public Open Space Policy is to support the Council's vision and strategic objectives of appropriately managing assets and to provide the community with guidelines for the provision and management of open space within Central Coast.

2. PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this Policy is to clearly outline the Council's commitment to the provision, development and maintenance of the Central Coast's open space network and recreation opportunities for the recreational and leisure needs of the community.

3. SCOPE

This Policy applies to all open space areas within the Central Coast municipal area.

4. OBJECTIVES

The following statements reflect the objectives of the Council with respect to the provision of open space and recreation:

- (a) Major open space and recreation developments initiated or supported by the Council will only proceed where they are the outcome of a 'whole-of-Council' process of planning, review and approval;
- (b) The Council will endeavour to facilitate the provision of recreation opportunities/projects for the community where there is an identified 'gap' in provision;
- (c) The Council will consider the provision of recreational opportunities and services where they are essential for the viability of a major Council recreation facility;
- (d) The Council will only provide or support new facilities, opportunities and service which reflect researched community needs, help achieve optimal use, offer a diversity of measurable beneficial outcomes and maintain or broaden the base for participation in recreation activities;
- (e) Unless a strong case to the contrary can be demonstrated, open space and built facilities will only be developed where this supports multiple uses and users;
- (f) The Council will encourage a transition to a shared or multiple occupation of existing grounds, facilities, clubrooms and social facilities;
- (g) The Council will endeavour to refurbish, redevelop and/or rationalise recreation assets or restructure their management and use to ensure current and emergent needs are satisfied and that duplication or over-provision does not occur;

- (h) The Council will endeavour to provide and maintain recreation facilities and services in a condition which is appropriate to the standard and level of use. Maintenance schedules will comply with contemporary standards for competition, safety and risk management;
- (i) The Council will strive to facilitate, support and/or develop and maintain recreation facilities and services at a hierarchy of standards to ensure a sustainable array of opportunities for participation at all appropriate skill levels;
- (j) The Council will ensure its approach to leasing, licencing and hiring of facilities is fair and equitable and aligned with a contemporary approach to community facility management;
- (k) The Council will actively support local community industry sectors that can generate sustainable, measurable open space and recreation outcomes.

To achieve this the Council will in accordance with the Central Coast Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012–2022:

- . Encourage active involvement in the allocation and maintenance of open space that will ensure that parks are located to maximise accessibility and are developed to allow appropriate utilisation by the community.
- . Develop open space facilities in accordance with the Council’s funding principles.
- . Where the residential subdivision of land occurs, co-ordinate the provision of open space in accordance with the Public Open Space Contributions Policy to maximise its environmental and recreational values and accessibility to users.
- . Negotiate with developers of industrial and commercial land for the allocation of open space for the enjoyment of workers and its integration into an urban open space network, including the creation and protection of native vegetation and wildlife corridors along roads and rail.
- . Encourage the rehabilitation and maintenance of waterways, including adjacent environs to preserve existing remnant vegetation and wildlife habitats.
- . Design open space areas to be attractive functional and safe.
- . The public open space reserve is to provide for the purchase of land in areas deficient in open space, to fulfil local, district and regional open space needs and to achieve the development of facilities on open space as per the Public Open Spaces Contributions Policy.

5. DEFINITIONS

Open space refers to all land controlled by the Council and available for public access.

6. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Council’s Public Open Space Policy complements and builds upon the Council’s Strategic Plan 2014–2024 as follows:

Strategic Direction 1.1

- Improve the value and use of open space.

Strategic Direction 1.2

- Conserve the physical environment in a way that ensures we have a healthy and attractive community.

Strategic Direction 2.1

- Provide for a diverse range of movement patterns.

Strategic Direction 4.3

- Develop and manage sustainable built infrastructure.

Strategic Direction 4.4

- Contribute to the preservation of the natural environment.

As well as:

- meeting community needs and expectations;
- management of the Council's risk;
- achievement of better resource efficiency using integrated systems; and
- compliance with State and Federal legislation.

7. STANDARD (INCLUDING RELEVANT LEGISLATION)

This Public Open Space Policy has been developed in accordance with the:

- Disability Discrimination Act
- Local Government Act 1993
- Central Coast Interim Planning Scheme 2013
- Central Coast Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012–2022
- Councils Long-term Financial Plan

8. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every five (5) years, unless organisational and legislative changes require more frequent modification.

9. APENDICES

The following appendices are attached to this Policy.

- Nil

10. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Central Coast Council Strategic Plan 2014–2024
- Corporate Folder
- Risk Management Policy
- Central Coast Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012–2022
- Public Open Space Contributions Policy

Sandra Ayton
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