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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING,
INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

**COMMUNITY AND
SOCIAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
ASSESSMENT**

PARKES SPECIAL
ACTIVATION PRECINCT

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JULY 2019

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Community and Social Infrastructure Assessment Parkes Special Activation Precinct



Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

This report documents a Community and Social Infrastructure Needs Assessment for Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP).

SAPs are unique in Regional NSW as they bring together planning and investment support. The Parkes SAP has been selected to take advantage of its location, business development opportunities and employment growth, due to the east-west rail line and Federal Government investment in the north-south Inland Rail.

COMMUNITY PROFILE AND VALUES

Situated 350 kilometres west of Sydney with a population of 11,500, that has remained stable for many decades, Parkes township's existing primary industries are focused around agriculture, freight and logistics, and mining. The people are proud of its diverse employment mix and resilience during times of adversity, such as drought. Parkes township is equally proud of its facilities, proactive Parkes Shire Council, cultural history and achievements. Similar to other rural communities, the Parkes community enjoys recreation and sport and has many examples of sporting excellence. There is much optimism about the future of Parkes township, especially with the addition of recent opportunities such as the Parkes National Logistics Hub, expansion of the Northparkes mine, development of Clean Teq mine, and the Special Activation Precinct.

Stakeholders in and around Parkes township have highlighted some community challenges, particularly in relation to the retention of youth, and the limited ability to attract young people back to the area after tertiary studies or time abroad seeking other opportunities. The opportunities associated with the pending economic growth, present other challenges in terms of the current constraints on housing ownership, rent and maintenance; and the systemic difficulty of attracting and retaining sufficient medical practitioners and teachers to service the current population. A shift in housing supply and demand is likely to place a further burden on housing affordability and homelessness.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, against NSW averages, Parkes township has:

- a stable population
 - low weekly household incomes
 - high unemployment and low labour force participation
 - high home ownership
 - a very high number of separate houses
 - high numbers of school aged children and elderly residents
 - a very high level of volunteers
 - high indigenous population.
-

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Without the Special Activation Precinct or other economic growth, Parkes township population projections would remain steady at approximately 3% between 2016–2036.

Excluding other types of economic investment in the Parkes township area, job creation and population changes, generated by the Parkes SAP only, vary depending on the mix and intensity of development. Three scenarios, low scale, high scale and high scale with an airport, have been developed to inform job and population projections in the short and long term. This will in turn influence the local make up of industry, occupations and the support and services needed to accommodate the likely influx of workforces and their families.

Important Note: The population projections mentioned in this report are based on those in the SAP *Economic and industry analysis*. Further, the *Economic and industry analysis* notes that population projections associated with the SAP require further assessment of shifting employment and economic trends such as the effects of an aging population, and movement to and from regional areas.

EXISTING SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

An audit of social infrastructure in Parkes township needs to consider certain elements of responsibility are shared with the nearby town of Forbes. For example, although Parkes township has the larger population, the regional headquarters for the State Emergency Services is based in Forbes; the administration office for the Catholic diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes is also in Forbes; yet Parkes township has a 24-hour Police Station and Forbes does not.

A new hospital with state of the art facilities was built on a greenfield site and completed in 2015 with capacity to absorb a higher uptake of the services offered. Provision has been made for additional visiting specialists to work from the hospital, however, this has proven difficult to implement.

Places in aged care facilities are readily available, although the availability of accredited staff is difficult to secure to support the needs of those places. Services and programs exist to enable the elderly to remain active and independent within the community for as long as possible.

The majority of early child care and education facilities are currently below capacity, however, a small shift in population would see some providers reach capacity.

Community support services provide some level of support to a broad range of demographic groups from Aboriginal and aged care, to support for young families, victims of bullying and domestic violence, disability groups and support services for carers, to programs for young people outside school and the school term.

Green space and sporting fields is considered to be well catered for in the community.

There are numerous places of worship, with the addition of the Christian School in recent years an extension of the Baptist Church community.

Creative opportunities are available through a number of programs, youth theatre space, galleries, and local festivals.

Tourism and hospitality services are quite extensive for the population of Parkes township, with several local attractions, a major highway, railway, and airport providing multi-modal opportunities for visitors from a variety of backgrounds with a range of interests.

STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Stakeholder and community consultation for the Community and Social Infrastructure Assessment has been integrated into each section of the following report.

Broader stakeholder and community consultation about the Parkes SAP is incorporated into other parts of the Parkes SAP Master Plan.

BENCHMARK ASSESSMENT

Publicly available benchmarks that have been set for certain social infrastructure have been considered in the overall assessment, report, and recommendations.

FINDINGS FROM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Parkes LGA is generally well serviced in terms of its social infrastructure needs. The Parkes Shire Council has a range of comprehensive policies and strategic plans to address the community's current and future needs and aspirations. However, even without the forecast economic growth, there is considerable concern voiced by stakeholders, and reflected in some of the evidence from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, that there is a need to bring all areas of infrastructure and services to the same baseline of provision.

The severe shortage of homes for purchase or rent, or qualified tradespeople, needs to be addressed. Without a sufficient level of immediately inhabitable dwellings in the Parkes township now, or the qualified professionals to build and maintain them, Parkes township would struggle to keep pace in its provision of social housing and infrastructure to support the Parkes SAP.

RECOMMENDED FUTURE PROVISIONS

Comparing the job and population growth projections against a continued steady rate of growth, considerable planning and investment in current social infrastructure would be required to meet the future needs of the community, on a scale comparable to that which the community currently enjoys. To achieve the level of regional economic growth associated with the Parkes SAP, integrated planning, education, housing and policy solutions are required along with the implementation of appropriate economic management and incentive schemes.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP) is a joint Government Agency initiative, announced by the Deputy Premier, the Hon John Barilaro MP, to create a 20-year vision for job creation and regional development. The Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are leading the creation of the Parkes SAP.

Parkes township is a location of State and regional significance and the Parkes SAP is an economic enabler that will address market failures and leverage catalyst opportunities. The Parkes SAP is a place-based approach to 'activate' this strategic location.

The Parkes SAP was selected because of the economic opportunities associated with the construction of an Inland Rail from Brisbane to Melbourne and the existing east-west Sydney to Perth/Adelaide Rail corridor which cross at Parkes township, creating an opportunity for an Inland Port.

The Parkes SAP will lead to investment in common-use infrastructure, including roads infrastructure, water, electricity, telecommunication, gas systems and services, high speed internet and data connections and facilities, and other possible infrastructure or services.

A SAP allows for a new way of planning in NSW and contain five core advantages/elements (see Figure 1.1), including:

- faster and easier planning processes for organisations and businesses to undertake
- Government-led development, ensuring short and long term needs are being met
- infrastructure investment to support and enable delivery through ongoing stages
- coordinated land-use and infrastructure planning, including background studies and approvals assessments
- business concierge services which help businesses start in the area, including grants and interest- free loans for eligible businesses.



Figure 1.1 SAP core advantages/elements

1.1 REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

The Parkes Local Government Area (LGA) is located approximately 350 kilometres west of Sydney, in the Central West and Orana Region. The main townships and settlements in the LGA include Alectown, Bogan Gate, Cookamidgera, Parkes, Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore. Other major centres in the region include Condobolin, Cowra, Dubbo, Forbes and Orange.

The Parkes township has a stable population of approximately 11,500 people (ABS, 2016), with around 5,000 dwellings. An industrial estate (zoned IN1 – General Industrial) is located south of the town, adjoining the Newell Highway. The town is serviced by an existing local centre, mixed use areas that contain both commercial, business and retail use. A new hospital and associated health Precinct is located towards the southern end of the town. The Parkes Regional Airport is located east of town, with the Parkes National Logistics Hub located to the west.

The Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 identifies the following key features about Parkes township:

- development and settlement is clustered around key corridors, including the twin centres of Parkes and Forbes
- Parkes township, along with Dubbo, is a major freight hub particularly in the selling, processing, manufacturing and transporting of livestock and agricultural produce
- TransGrid’s NSW Connection Opportunities identifies Parkes township as having capacity for renewable energy generation
- existing regional mining operations (North Parkes Mines and Tomingley) near Parkes township.

The establishment of a Parkes SAP is consistent with Parkes Shire Council’s vision and strategic planning for the locality.

1.2 PARKES SPECIAL ACTIVATION PRECINCT

The Parkes SAP covers is located to the west of the Parkes township (see Figure 1.2). The Parkes SAP is strategically located at the intersection of:

- the Brisbane to Melbourne Inland Rail
- the Sydney to Perth/Adelaide Rail corridor
- is in close proximity to the junction of the Henry Parkes Way and Newell Highway.

The Inland Rail project has received \$9.3 billion in funding from the Commonwealth Government to support the upgrade to the freight network from Brisbane to Melbourne. It is projected that the first train will run between the two capital cities in 2025. Parkes township is an important connection for the Inland Rail project, as it is the epicentre of inland freight.



Figure 1.2 Indicative location of Parkes SAP

The Parkes SAP is predominantly occupied by agricultural land, with a solar energy facility located in the north-western corner and an existing quarry operation located in the south-eastern area of the Parkes SAP.

The existing primary industries in Parkes are focused around freight and logistics, agribusiness and mining. Parkes township strategic location within Regional NSW provides the opportunity to capitalise on these industries, along with the potential to expand into warehousing, advanced food manufacturing and renewable energy uses.

1.3 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Currently under the Parkes Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2013, the Parkes SAP area is zoned:

- RU1 – Primary Production
- SP1 – Special Activities
- SP2 – Infrastructure.

The land zoned SP1 – Special Activities has been identified as the Parkes National Logistics Hub. The Parkes National Logistics Hub covers approximately 600 hectares. The land includes the Pacific National and SCT Logistics sites among other landholdings. The locality provides the opportunity to create an intermodal site serviced by rail and road connections.

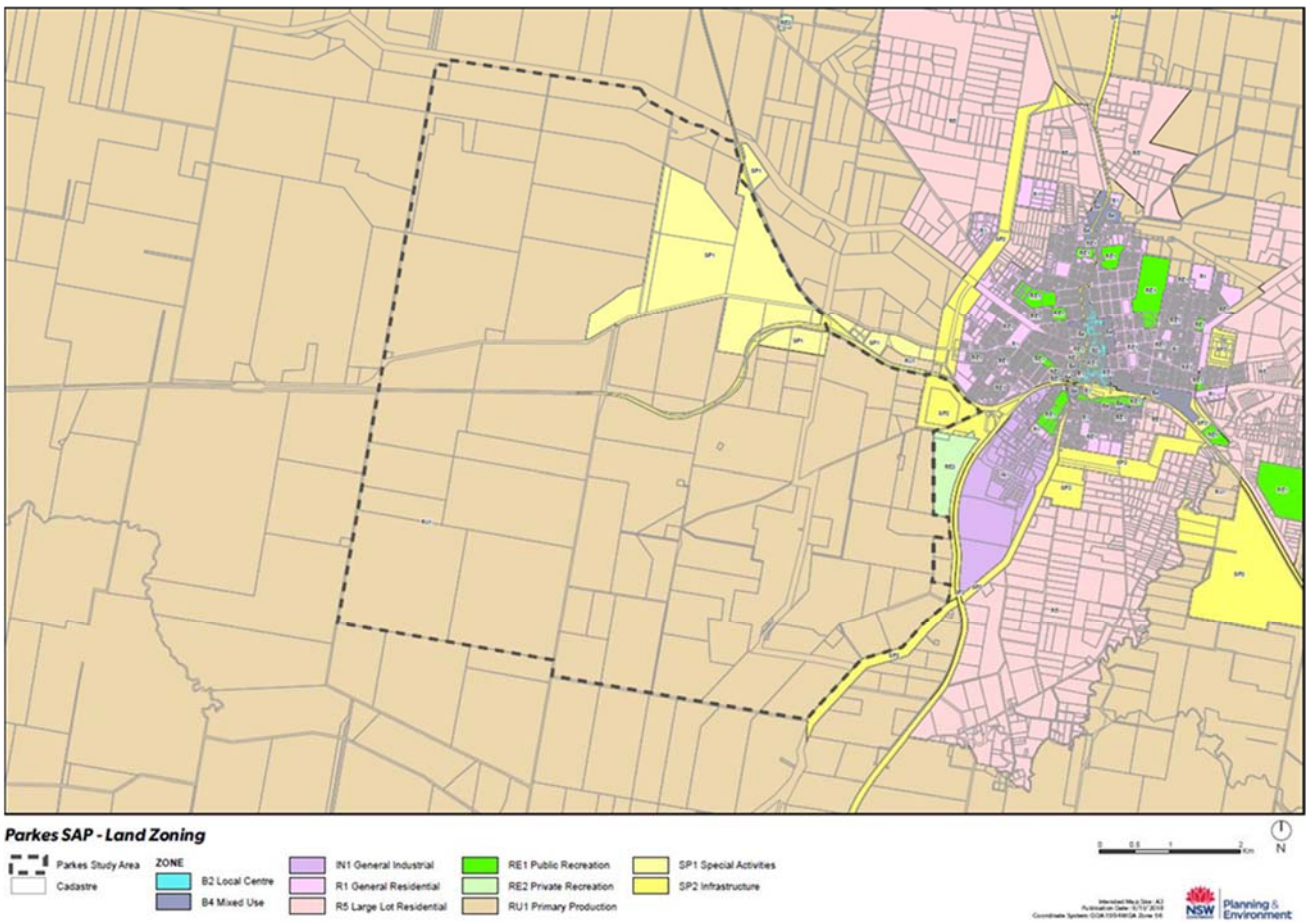


Figure 1.3 Zoning map

2 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

A Master Plan is required to progress the Parkes SAP to the next stage of delivery. A Master Plan sets the scene for a future more detailed plan, that can build on the design principles and the broad land use approach.

WSP has prepared this Community and Social Infrastructure Assessment for the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to ensure key outcomes can be included in the draft Parkes SAP Master Plan.

The Parkes SAP Master Plan, compiled by Jensen Plus, will be supported by several technical studies including:

- community and social infrastructure assessment
- environment, heritage and sustainability
- flooding and water quality management
- infrastructure and transport plans
- environmental regulatory requirements.

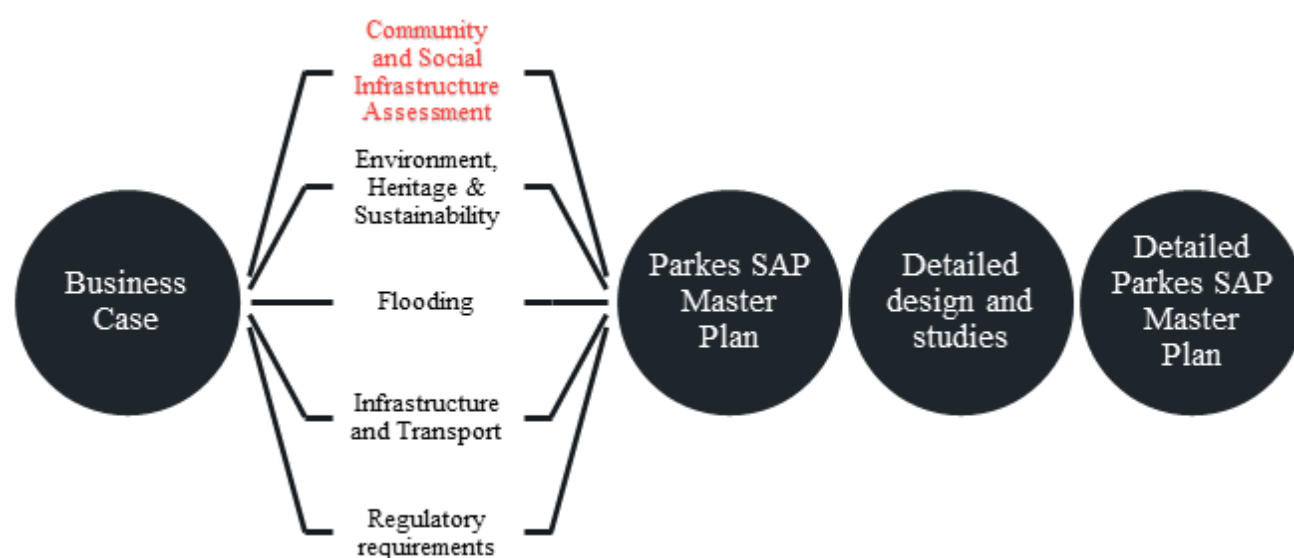


Figure 2.1 Technical studies that support the Parkes SAP Master Plan

The Community and Social Infrastructure Assessment (CSIA) considers the Parkes township and the wider region's current and future capacity to accommodate population increases through job creation, industry and business development. Key objectives of the CSIA are to:

- identify and assess whether the providers of existing services and facilities, including those provided by government (local and State), community groups and business partners in Parkes township and the Central West Region, can plan for and manage any gaps in service and facilities over time
- outline relevant standards and thresholds for the delivery of services and facilities to understand relevant gaps and overlaps in services
- meet the requirements of the Parkes SAP Master Plan by documenting community and social needs that influence design and land use in the Central West Region
- identify opportunities that can be maximised and barriers that can be addressed through further assessment and detailed planning
- provide recommendations for further assessment, planning and engagement with service providers in Parkes township and the Central West Region.

2.1 STRUCTURE OF THIS REPORT

This report is structured in the following way:

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Purpose of this report
- Section 3: Methodology
- Section 4: Local context
- Section 5: Existing Community and social infrastructure
- Section 6: Population Projections
- Section 7: Stakeholder Engagement
- Section 8: Needs assessment
- Section 9: Recommendations.

3 METHODOLOGY

The Community and Social Infrastructure Assessment (CSIA) has been undertaken as follows:

Table 3.1 Methodology to develop the Community and Social Infrastructure Assessment (CSIA)

STAGE	TASKS
Policy context and background review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Background review and summary of local, regional and State policies, plans and strategies to determine parameters for the Parkes SAP and potential barriers and opportunities associated with development in the Parkes Local Government Area (LGA). — Development of criteria to guide the interview process.
Existing situation assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — A demographic profile of the resident population of Parkes LGA was prepared using datasets from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census of Population and Housing. Demographic information for Forbes LGA has also been included in this report to account for the significant number of people who travel between the two regional centres for work, education and leisure activities. — Consultation with Parkes Shire Council to determine relevant stakeholders and potential issues. — Interviews with service providers to understand local and regional facilities and services as well as their current capacity. — Consideration of benchmarks that have been set for certain social infrastructure, and publicly available. — Desktop assessment of existing community and social research to identify services and facilities in Parkes township and the Central West Region. — Existing and projected changes in the Local Government Area (LGA), such as new projects and population, were identified to inform discussions with stakeholders and further studies.
Future demand analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Development of the population projections based on the SGS Land Use Analysis. — Assessment of future demand based on short-listed planning scenarios as identified in the preliminary Parkes SAP Master Plan Report. — Interviews with service providers to understand their future capacity and potential to accommodate population increase. — Review of consultation outcomes.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Recommendations for future provision.

3.1 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

In developing this report, several assumptions and limitations arose which must be considered when reviewing this CSIA:

- The assessment relies on desktop analysis of publicly available information and the results of targeted stakeholder consultation.
- While every effort was made to identify relevant stakeholders for interview purposes, some identified stakeholders did not respond or declined to be interviewed.
- The SGS Land Use Analysis projections were used to inform the CSIA and discussions with stakeholders.
- Job and population changes related to several theoretical scenarios that were used to assist stakeholders to provide informed comment. Projections of up to 500, 1,000 and 2,000 jobs were used as a theoretical guide only.

3.1.1 LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS

The needs assessment is based on both the original scenarios outlined in the 2018 SGS Land Use Analysis, and the shortlisted scenarios developed during the Parkes SAP assessment period. From the 2018 SGS Land Use Analysis estimated job projections:

- **Freight and Logistics SAP sub-precinct:** Centrally located between intermodal terminals, the freight and logistics SAP sub-precinct will align with transport infrastructure to maximise efficient freight handling, storage and processing. A customs facility is proposed to streamline exports. Planning could include a potential third rail terminal between Brolgan Road and the rail line on the western edge of the Parkes SAP.
 - 434 initial full time jobs, which could grow to 650.
- **High amenity SAP sub-precinct – agribusiness:** The agribusiness sub-precinct would attract a range of high-value agricultural production and processing businesses. The sub-precinct will benefit from direct connections to road and rail facilities to distribute produce regionally and internationally, complementing existing neighbouring land uses of agriculture and solar farms.
 - 431 initial full time jobs, which could grow to 945.
- **Low amenity SAP sub-precinct – abattoir:** The low amenity sub-precinct would be a high impact land use buffered by a significant setback from adjacent uses. It will be surrounded by retained farmland and could include land uses such as an abattoir or feedlots.

An abattoir would co-locate in this sub-precinct with a waste to energy facility to cluster low amenity uses. Separate access for the abattoir facility will minimise livestock movement through the precinct. This will limit the impact on surrounding Parkes SAP uses, as well as provide sufficient distance from Parkes township.

 - 297 initial full time jobs, which could grow to 638.
- **Low amenity SAP sub-precinct – waste to energy:** The low amenity designated sub-precinct could include a waste to energy facility that utilises the existing mine site and distance from the centre of the Parkes SAP. Good connectivity to road and rail and separate access off the Parkes Bypass will minimise waste movement through the Parkes SAP, containing low amenity uses to the South-Eastern Region.

The facility could co-locate with other low amenity uses, such as an abattoir, separated by a substantial landscape buffer to Parkes township residential areas. The facility can respond to the current national waste challenge given its access to multiple states by road and rail.

 - 30-60 full time jobs.
- **Parkes SAP transition zone:** A transition zone is proposed that separates the Parkes SAP from Parkes township and signal a transition into the Parkes SAP. Over the long term, this could evolve into a SAP sub-precinct that bridges the economic gap between the Parkes SAP and Parkes township, via a range of uses such as ag-tech and education.
- **Expansion SAP sub-precinct:** The expansion SAP sub-precinct provides for all major land uses in the Parkes SAP. It creates maximum flexibility by providing expansion potential for all land uses in the Parkes SAP and supporting land if a third intermodal terminal is developed between the expansion zone and Brolgan Road.

4 LOCAL CONTEXT

4.1 STUDY AREA

For this CSIA, the study area is made up of the Parkes Local Government Area (LGA), to ensure the Parkes township and Central West Region are understood and included in the assessment. Initial discussions with key stakeholders indicated there are high rates of current and historical mobility related to employment and access to services as well as economic relationships with Forbes. Therefore, Forbes LGA, including the township of Forbes, are considered in the assessment, where relevant.

4.1.1 PARKES

The Parkes LGA is located approximately 350 kilometres west of Sydney, in the Central West and Orana Region. The main townships and settlements in the Parkes LGA include Alectown, Bogan Gate, Cookamidgera, Parkes, Peak Hill, Trundle, and Tullamore.

The Parkes township has a stable population of approximately 11,500 people with around 5,000 dwellings (ABS Census 2016). Parkes township is serviced by an existing local centre with mixed use areas that contain commercial, business and retail use. A new hospital and associated health precinct is located towards the southern end of town, Parkes Regional Airport is located east of town, the Parkes National Logistics Hub is located to the west and an industrial estate is located south of the town, adjoining the Newell Highway.

The existing primary industries in Parkes township are focused around freight and logistics, agribusiness and mining. The strategic location of Parkes township within Regional NSW provides the opportunity to capitalise on these industries, along with the potential to expand into warehousing, advanced food manufacturing and renewable energy uses.

4.1.2 FORBES

The Forbes LGA is located about 360 kilometres west of the Sydney CBD, in the Central Tablelands region. The Forbes township is located approximately 33 km south-west of Parkes township and has also been designated as strategic centre.

Per 2016 Census data, the Forbes township has a population of 8,432 people with 3,820 dwellings. Per the 2011 Census data, 82% of the population worked within the Forbes LGA, and many of those who did not work locally were employed in Parkes.

Forbes LGA is predominantly rural, with several townships which include residential, industrial and commercial areas. Settlement is based mainly in the town of Forbes (95% of the population), and the smaller villages of Bedgerabong, Corinella, Ootha and Wurrinya.

Much of the rural area is used for farming, including sheep and cattle grazing, dairy farming, orcharding and viticulture. Together, Parkes township and Forbes township are considered twin centres that can use their proximity to leverage the strengths of each other.

4.2 PARKES SAP

The Parkes SAP covers an area of approximately 3,600 hectares and is located to the west of the Parkes township. It includes the Parkes National Logistics Hub and has the potential to expand to approximately 8,000 hectares as the site is developed and economic activity increases. The Parkes SAP is strategically located at the intersection of the Brisbane to Melbourne Inland Rail (Inland Rail) and the Sydney to Peth/Adelaide Rail corridor. Through its strategic location on key freight routes, Parkes township has access to all major cities and seaports in Australia. The central location of Parkes township reduces the average distance that freight needs to travel to reach the major markets throughout Australia. This results in significant cost reductions in haulage and distribution.

The Parkes SAP is strategically located at the intersection of:

- Parkes to Broken Hill rail line (which extends to Adelaide and Perth)
- Cootamundra to Parkes rail line (which extends to Sydney, Melbourne and the Riverina)
- Sydney to Parkes rail line (via Lithgow)
- Parkes to Narromine rail line (with a future connection to Brisbane via Inland rail)
- near the junction of the Henry Parkes Way and Newell Highway.

The Parkes SAP is currently predominantly occupied by agricultural land, with a solar energy facility located in the north-western corner and an existing quarry operation located in the south-eastern area of the Parkes SAP. The Parkes SAP is made up of around 20 landowners each with differing sized lots.

4.3 LOCAL TRENDS AND PERSPECTIVES

Parkes township and neighbouring Forbes township are both regional employment hubs, with many workers travelling up to an hour between these locations or from smaller towns throughout the area. There is a similar trend for people accessing health, community and education services. Travel between the two key areas of Forbes township and Parkes township helps reduce the loss of local workforces to larger regional centres such as Orange and Dubbo, or to major cities like Sydney. A common concern raised in discussions with local service providers is the notable number of students who attend boarding school outside the region, and the need to provide opportunities to retain and attract young people back to the area after tertiary education or early employment.

4.3.1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

An overview of the Central West Region demographics is provided in Table 4.1, with NSW averages presented for comparison. A detailed study of the baseline demographic profile for this CSIA can be found in the Baseline Report in Appendix B.

Table 4.1 Demographic characteristics

INDICATOR (LGA)	PARKES TOWNSHIP	FORBES TOWNSHIP	NSW	KEY FINDINGS
Age and population				
Population	14,608	9,587	7,480,228	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The area will see relatively static rates of growth. — Over 75% of the population has lived at the same address one year ago, ensuring a stable economic and social base. — There is a higher proportion of Aboriginal people compared to the NSW average, providing opportunities for outreach. — Population growth across the Parkes LGA is expected to remain relatively static (between 0.1% and 0.2%) to reach a total population of 15,700 residents by 2036. — Parkes LGA has an older population, with each age group over 50 contributing to a higher percentage of the population than NSW averages.
Proportion of Aboriginal people	10.1%	11.1%	2.9%	
Stability of population (same address a year ago)	76.2%	76.8%	77.4%	
Dwellings	6,737	4,370	2,889,061	
Median age	41	42	38	
Proportion of working age (between 15 and 65 years)	59.9%	57.7%	65.1%	
Proportion of school aged population (between 5 and 17 years)	20.6%	20.4%	18.3%	
Proportion of Seniors (70 years plus)	14.2%	15.2%	11.1%	

INDICATOR (LGA)	PARKES TOWNSHIP	FORBES TOWNSHIP	NSW	KEY FINDINGS
Families and households				
Couple family without children	40.2%	44.4%	36.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families are the most common household type in the Central West Region, which also has a higher proportion of single person households than the NSW average. Domain.com.au indicates for a three-bedroom house in Parkes LGA in 2019, the median price is \$240,000 with an auction clearance rate of 23%. A three-bedroom house in Forbes LGA has a median price of \$248,000 and an auction clearance rate of 32%. Parkes township and Forbes township both have high rates of home ownership compared to the NSW proportion.
Couple family with children	39.7%	37.1%	45.7%	
Prominent housing type – Separate house	90.1%	90.5%	66.4%	
Housing owned outright	66.4%	68%	32.2%	
Government housing	4.9%	13.8%	4.0%	
Culture and language				
Born in Australia	84.5%	85.8%	65.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both LGAs have a high proportion of the population born in Australia, which is again reflected in the high proportion of households where only English is spoken. The Central West Region has relatively low cultural diversity. Of the languages, other than English spoken in the Central West Region, the most common languages were Afrikaans, Cantonese and Italian, though these are spoken by a relatively small number of the population (less than 1%).
English only spoken at home	88.5%	89.0%	68.5%	
Households where non-English language is spoken	3.8%	3.0%	26.5%	
Employment and income				
Labour force participation	43.2%	45.5%	48.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents in the Central West Region are more likely to actively participate and be engaged in their local community. Both LGA's have a lower median weekly household income and lower labour force participation than the NSW average.
Unemployment	7.4%	5.4%	6.3%	
Volunteer participation	24.3%	25.1%	18.1%	
Median weekly household income	\$1,088	\$1,069	\$1,438	
Education				
Bachelor degree and above	9.4%	9.9%	23.4%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central West Region has a small proportion of the population who have completed a Bachelor degree or above, less than the NSW average.
Advanced diploma and diploma	6.2%	6.7%	8.9%	
Year 12	10.8%	11.4%	15.3%	
Year 11	4.0%	4.1%	3.3%	

INDICATOR (LGA)	PARKES TOWNSHIP	FORBES TOWNSHIP	NSW	KEY FINDINGS
Year 10	18.3%	17.3%	11.5%	— Year 10 is the most common level of schooling completion in both Parkes at 18.3% and Forbes at 17.3%.
Year 9 or below	12.9%	13.9%	8.4%	
No educational attainment	0.3%	0.3%	0.9%	

4.3.2 CURRENT ECONOMY AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Parkes National Logistics Hub, established in 2017 as a collaboration between the NSW Government and Parkes Shire Council, has resulted in heightened interest from logistics firms and other industries to capitalise on Parkes township strategic location, transport capabilities and the future Inland Rail opportunity.

The Parkes LGA also boasts a strong economy and a stable population and labour force. Given Parkes township location within the Australian Wheat Belt, the agricultural industries remains one of the key drivers of the local economy. The agricultural sector is also supported by the construction, healthcare, retail and education sectors. Additionally, forecasted growth in the transport and logistic sector will further bolster and diversify Parkes’ economy.



Figure 4.1 Parkes township connectivity, Department of Planning and Environment Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036

4.4 CLIMATE CHANGE AND DROUGHT IMPACTS

Due to the agricultural nature and focus of the Parkes and Forbes LGAs, climate change and droughts have an impact on almost every element of life in the area. Financial hardship from decreased agricultural output contributes to unemployment rates and impacts the Parkes township and Forbes township economy and community wellbeing. Many of the local businesses have reported a decline in patronage and income.

Education attainment levels in the Central West Region are well below the NSW averages, which reduces the ability to take up employment in alternative industries that are not related to agriculture.

The impact of the drought is also evidenced by the recent appointment of a Drought Response Officer to support local farmers and the broader community through times of drought. Parkes LGA role is based on the long-term impact drought has had in the Central West Region and will help “in coordinating efforts regarding financial assistance for grants and funding for farmers and businesses, deferral of loan repayments, mental health services and transport assistance for livestock”.

The Drought Response Officer and Parkes LGA ongoing efforts will help to maintain the livelihood of local farmers and the existing community network. The role was developed in response to outcomes of a local community forum held in September 2018. Key issues raised at the forum, attended by existing and retired farmers, businesses and residents included:

- the duration of the drought and long term impacts
- access to feed and the ability to maintain breeding stock
- the health and welfare of farmers and business owners, as well as stock
- time involved with feeding and handling livestock
- property maintenance
- lack of coordination for fundraising and distribution of donations
- more professional support
- the flow-on effects to small businesses.

4.4.1 INCREASED INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

There has been significant investment in the Central West Region with multiple major infrastructure projects planned and delivered. These projects would make Parkes township more connected, attract people travelling through Regional NSW, assist local, regional, state and national freight movements, industry development and help the large proportion of workers who travel to Parkes township. The key projects are:

- **Newell Highway upgrade:** the upgrade of the Newell Highway at Parkes township aims to improve efficiency and productivity, providing access for high productivity vehicles through Parkes township as well as providing a link to existing road train routes to the west. The project will also improve access to Parkes National Logistics Hub and increase the attractiveness of Parkes township as a place to live and work.
- **Parkes Bypass:** Parkes bypass is part of the Newell Highway upgrade which will increase access for road trains and improve traffic flow in Parkes township, particularly roads to Orange and Condobolin. As part of the project, a new bridge will be built over railway lines to minimise delays and improve safety for all road users. The project will improve the amenity and pedestrian access in Parkes by reducing the number of heavy vehicles through the Parkes township.
- **Inland Rail (Parkes to Narromine):** Parkes township has been announced as a major node on the Inland Rail line which will connect Regional NSW to the global market via the major ports of Australia, placing the Central West region into an economically advantageous position. The establishment of Parkes National Logistics Hub will offer cheaper, faster and more efficient modal choices and a centralised storage and distribution point for a range of commodities including agricultural products. The project is expected to deliver 16,000 new jobs at the peak of construction and an average of 700 additional jobs per year over the entire period.
- **Northparkes Mine:** Northparkes Mines is a joint venture between China Molybdenum Co. Ltd (CMOC) (80%) and the Sumitomo Groups (20%) located 27 kilometres north-west of Parkes township, is a world leader in innovative block caving techniques and has used this to access the considerable copper and gold reserves. Northparkes Mines has recently secured approval from the NSW and Federal Governments for the Mine Life Extension project, which extends Northparkes Mines operations until 2032, an additional seven years. Construction is complete on a new tailings storage facility which will provide additional infrastructure for production. Northparkes currently employs almost 300 staff on site, as well as additional contract staff.
- **Clean TeQ Sunrise Project:** In June 2018, a Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) was completed for Clean TeQ Sunrise project, noting its global importance as a sustainable, long-life, low-cost source of high purity cobalt and nickel sulphates for battery manufacturing. The Syerston deposit is situated in Central NSW, just outside of Fifield, and is well supported by Parkes township, Dubbo and Condobolin which are all located within 100 km of the project area. Approximately 300 personnel will be employed as the operational workforce, with a Regional Operations Centre in Parkes township currently under consideration.

- **Parkes National Logistics Hub:** The Parkes National Logistics Hub is located on the western fringe the Parkes township, less than 5 minutes from the CBD. Major road linkages to Parkes National Logistics Hub include the Newell Highway, which runs north-south between Melbourne and Brisbane and State Route 90 running between Sydney and Western NSW. At around 600 ha, the Parkes National Logistics Hub has been designed for the 24 hour, 7 days per week operation of an intermodal transport facility. Pacific National owns 365-hectares at Parkes township, with Pacific National’s Parkes Logistics Terminal (PLT), currently under construction and located within the Parkes National Logistics Hub. The construction of PLT will generate up to 50 jobs, while the future terminal will have a workforce of approximately 100 people, including train crews. Once fully operational, PLT will consolidate more than 450,000 cargo containers each year; many to be hauled on the Inland Rail between the ports of Melbourne and Brisbane.

4.4.2 HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Closely linked to housing availability is housing affordability. Whilst data specific to Parkes township or Forbes township has not been obtained, various academic, State and Federal sources acknowledge that issues of housing supply and affordability extend beyond the Parks township to Regional NSW. The 2018 Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey lists two regional areas in the top ten of least-affordable housing markets in the world. A 2018 Grattan paper on housing affordability offers the following points and reasons for the pressure on pricing and supply in regional areas:

- regional house prices are a higher multiple of income compared to city counterparts
- slow release of land has contributed to prices rising in regional areas about as fast as in cities
- city retirees have pushed up demand in many coastal towns that house a large proportion of Australia’s regional population
- housing is not much more affordable in regional areas. House prices are lower but so, too, are average incomes
- median house prices are now about 6.6 times annual household incomes
- some house-price-to-income ratios are higher than those in capital cities 15 years ago.

Such pressures on housing supply and affordability naturally exacerbates conditions felt by low income households and the homeless. From a 2017 study by Catholic Care Wilcannia-Forbes over 220 people within the Parkes LGA and 111 within the Forbes LGA identified as being homeless or at risk of homelessness. The Parkes Forbes Homelessness and Housing Support provides early intervention and post-crisis support, helps clients to access long-term secure accommodation, and supports them to maintain these tenancies. The service also has a strong focus on Aboriginal people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

4.5 POLICY CONTEXT

Parkes township has been identified by government and industry as a key regional hub with increasing investment projected over the coming years. As such, there are several strategies and plans, developed by Parkes Shire Council and other government agencies, which set the focus and objectives for the region.

4.5.1 CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA REGIONAL PLAN 2036

The Department of Planning and Environment’s *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 (Regional Plan)* sets specific priorities for Parkes township, underneath an overarching vision and four goals. The vision for Parkes LGA is: “The most diverse regional economy in NSW with a vibrant network of centres leveraging the opportunities of being at the heart of NSW”.

The goals that frame the *Regional Plan* are:

- 1 The most diverse regional economy in NSW
- 2 A stronger, healthier environment and diverse heritage
- 3 Quality freight, transport and infrastructure networks
- 4 Dynamic, vibrant and healthy communities.

The *Regional Plan* highlights projects like Inland Rail, the Parkes National Logistics Hub and developing Parkes Regional Airport as an air freight hub, in addition to supporting infrastructure to link Parkes township to capital cities and ports. The *Regional Plan* also acknowledges Parkes township as a growing regional centre and encourages diversification of the local economy, growth of local communities through supportive infrastructure, improvements in telecommunications infrastructure and an adequate supply of residential, industrial and commercial land.

4.5.2 RDA CENTRAL WEST – REGIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 2017–2020

The RDA Central West – *Regional Planning Framework 2017–2020* developed by the Regional Development Authority Central West also leverages Parkes’ township strategic position at the intersection of the east-west Intercontinental Railway and the proposed Inland Rail as a consolidation point for rail traffic to and from Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. Similar to the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036*, this Framework notes Inland Rail and the Parkes National Logistics Hub as important investment for the town. It also places importance on efficient intermodal terminals to provide industry in the area with opportunities for large producers to switch freight modes and for smaller producers to utilise rail.

4.5.3 PARKES SHIRE 2030+ COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Parkes Shire Council has developed a suite of strategies and policies which set a clear vision and associated priorities to grow Parkes township into a strong regional hub in the immediate future. The Parkes Shire 2030+ Community Strategic Plan (*Strategic Plan*) states that by 2022, Parkes LGA will be “*a progressive and smart regional centre, embracing a national logistics hub with vibrant communities, diverse opportunities, learning and healthy lifestyles*”. The *Strategic Plan* sits above all other plans and policies in the Parkes LGA hierarchy and outlines the future directives which are to:

- develop educational and lifelong learning opportunities
- improve health and wellbeing
- promote, support and grow communities
- grow and diversify the economic base
- develop Parkes township as a national logistics hub
- enhance recreation and culture
- care for the natural and build environment in a changing culture
- maintain and improve the Parkes LGA assets and infrastructure.

The *Strategic Plan* flows directly into the key actions identified in the Delivery Program for Parkes LGA to implement over its term of office.

The directives in the Parkes Shire 2030+ Community Strategic Plan are a key foundation in the many planning documents Parkes Shire Council has developed to facilitate the vision and goals outlined in the *Strategic Plan*. These documents include:

- Delivery Program
- National Logistics Hub Prospectus
- Township strategic plans for Bogan Gate, Trundle, Tullamore and Peak Hill
- Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Open Space Asset Management Plan and
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Parkes Shire Council has placed importance on making Parkes township a vibrant and accessible town for its people, undertaking community consultation to develop a series of strategies and masterplans. These include:

- CBD Vibrancy Strategy
- Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy
- Regional Airport Masterplan
- Henry Parkes Centre Masterplan
- Parks and Recreational Precincts
- Skate Park Masterplans and
- Sporting Facilities and Precincts.

A detailed review of the local and regional strategies and plans for Parkes township and the wider Central West Region are included in Appendix A.

5 EXISTING COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

An audit of community and social facilities, public services and places of special interest was undertaken to understand current provision, location and potential gaps. The audit drew on Parkes LGA information and stakeholder consultation.

The audit suggests the Parkes township community is well serviced by a range of social infrastructure with the majority of community facilities concentrated close to the town centre. Some facilities are multi-purpose and serve as either recreational, function spaces, or general community meeting places.

Discussions with stakeholders in the area indicate the Parkes township provides many local and daily services for residents of nearby communities such as Forbes, Peak Hill and Trundle. The notable gap identified through the stakeholder consultation was the provision of specialised health services and diverse training and employment opportunities.

The regional trend for employees to reside in neighbouring towns, especially Forbes, is expected to continue with the employment growth from the Parkes SAP and Parkes National Logistics Hub opportunities. The fluidity with which people travel between Parkes township and Forbes township is locally acknowledged in the provision of services such as retail opportunities, student enrolments in high school, course enrolments at TAFE, and the provision of health services and emergency services. For this reason, data relating to the Forbes township has been included to fully appreciate and consider the impacts to social infrastructure resulting from the Parkes SAP and Parkes National Logistics Hub. The existing relationship between the towns is, therefore, likely to result in several shared and collaborative opportunities.

5.1 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES

The top industry of employment in Parkes LGA in 2017/18 was health care and social assistance, generating 831 local jobs and accounting for 13% of the local labour force. Since 2012/13, an additional 142 jobs have been created in this industry, most likely due to the completion of the Parkes Hospital development in 2015. Following health care and social assistance, agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 12.2% of employment, with mining 10.2%, and retail trade 10%.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry comprised 39.7% of total registered businesses in Parkes LGA.

5.1.1 AGRICULTURE

The agricultural sector in Parkes is primarily comprised of sheep grazing and the production of grain crops and employs over 700 people. Recent developments in sustainable farming techniques have positioned Parkes at the forefront of innovation in the sector. There are opportunities for smaller boutique processing and packaging operations to service specific markets including bottling and stock feed.

In 2015/16, the total value of agricultural output in Parkes LGA was \$170M. The largest commodity produced was cereal crops, which accounted for 51.3% of Parkes LGA's total agricultural output in value terms.

Table 5.1 Agricultural Gross Regional Product (GRP) contributions (2015/16)

COMMODITY	2015/16 \$ VALUES	% OF TOTAL	PARKES LGA AS % OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Cereal Crops	87,380,173	51.3	2.9
Broadacre Crops	24,187,843	14.2	1.2
Crops for hay	4,228,530	2.5	1.3
Vegetables	1,574,869	0.9	0.4
Wool	21,241,547	12.5	2.2
Milk	2,367,426	1.4	0.4
Eggs	7,681	0.0	0.0
Livestock slaughters	29,352,083	17.2	0.7
Agriculture – total value	170,340,152	100	1.3

5.1.1.1 CONSULTATION

The drought has had an impact on the often-interdependent nature of crop and livestock production: the low rainfall has affected the ability to harvest an economic crop; and the lack of feed or crop surplus, combined with reduced water supply, has forced many pastoralists to de-stock. This has the cumulative impact of this community sector spending less in the local retail sector.

5.1.2 TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

5.1.2.1 STATUS

Overall the Parkes township tourism industry generates more than \$58 million to the Parkes township economy. This sector employs 366 people in the Parkes LGA. There are a range of tourist activities and significant places that attract visitors throughout the year, including:

- the CSIRO Parkes Radio Telescope (The Dish)
- Henry Parkes Centre
- Parkes Elvis Festival
- Peak Hill Open Cut experience
- Trundle ABBA Festival and bush tucker day
- Tullamore Irish Festival.

There are approximately 1,500 bed spaces across a range of motels, hotels, B&Bs, serviced accommodation, cabin and caravan parks in Parkes township. A further 300 bed spaces in pubs, motels and caravan parks in Peak Hill, Bogan Gate, Trundle, Tullamore and Forbes.

5.1.2.2 CONSULTATION

There are currently no Development Applications (DAs) for additional accommodation services in Parkes township. Feedback about the hospitality sector tended to focus on the number of closed retail spaces.

5.1.3 *MINING*

5.1.3.1 STATUS

The NSW Minerals Council, direct spending in the mining sector in the Central West Region is \$858 million and in the Parkes LGA it is approximately \$80 million. Northparkes currently employs almost 300 staff on site, as well as additional contract staff.

Apart from Northparkes mine there are several other operational mines within approximately 100 km including Cadia and Cowal Gold mine and the new \$116 million Tomingley Gold Project. There are also approximately 15 exploration projects located within 100 km of Parkes township.

5.1.3.2 CONSULTATION

The expansion of Northparkes mine will grow the employment in this sector, and drive a modest increase in the demand on existing social infrastructure.

The plans for the Clean Teq mine, whilst closer to Condobolin than Parkes township, is expected to generate some additional need in the area for contractors and suppliers, however, the majority of workers during the two-year construction period would be self-contained in an accommodation village.

Anecdotally a number of mining supply companies are also looking to relocate to Parkes township, as it is a hub for the distribution of mining supplies throughout NSW, the Central West Region and nationally.

5.1.4 *RETAIL*

5.1.4.1 STATUS

The retail sector in Parkes township employs nearly 600 people, which is approximately 10% of the workforce and contributes to \$30 million to the economy annually. Speciality retail and homewares stores and major retailers including Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Target, Big W, Furniture One and Harvey Norman complete the community's shopping district.

5.1.4.2 CONSULTATION

The drought has had a knock-on effect to the retail sector. Those employed in the agricultural sector spend less on retail and farm related businesses (suppliers, mechanics, fabricators). Stakeholders indicated the majority of reduced retail opportunities in the last few years was in direct response to the drought.

5.1.5 *PUBLIC SECTOR*

5.1.5.1 STATUS

Parkes township has a strong public sector. The Roads and Maritime Service Western Region administrative office is in Parkes township and employs approximately 150 people, along with newly developed buildings for Centrelink and Department of Children Services. Parkes township has a new \$13 million Police Station and work has recently been completed on a new state-of-the-art \$72.8 million hospital.

Education and training, health care and public administration contribute approximately \$110 million to the gross regional product (GRP) and employ about 20% of the work force.

5.1.5.2 CONSULTATION

Consultation with various sections of the public sector is captured in section 7 of this report.

5.2 EXISTING SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Services and facilities were mapped to assess location, proximity, service catchments and coverage. A detailed review of the existing social infrastructure for Parkes township and the wider Central West Region area is included in Appendix B.

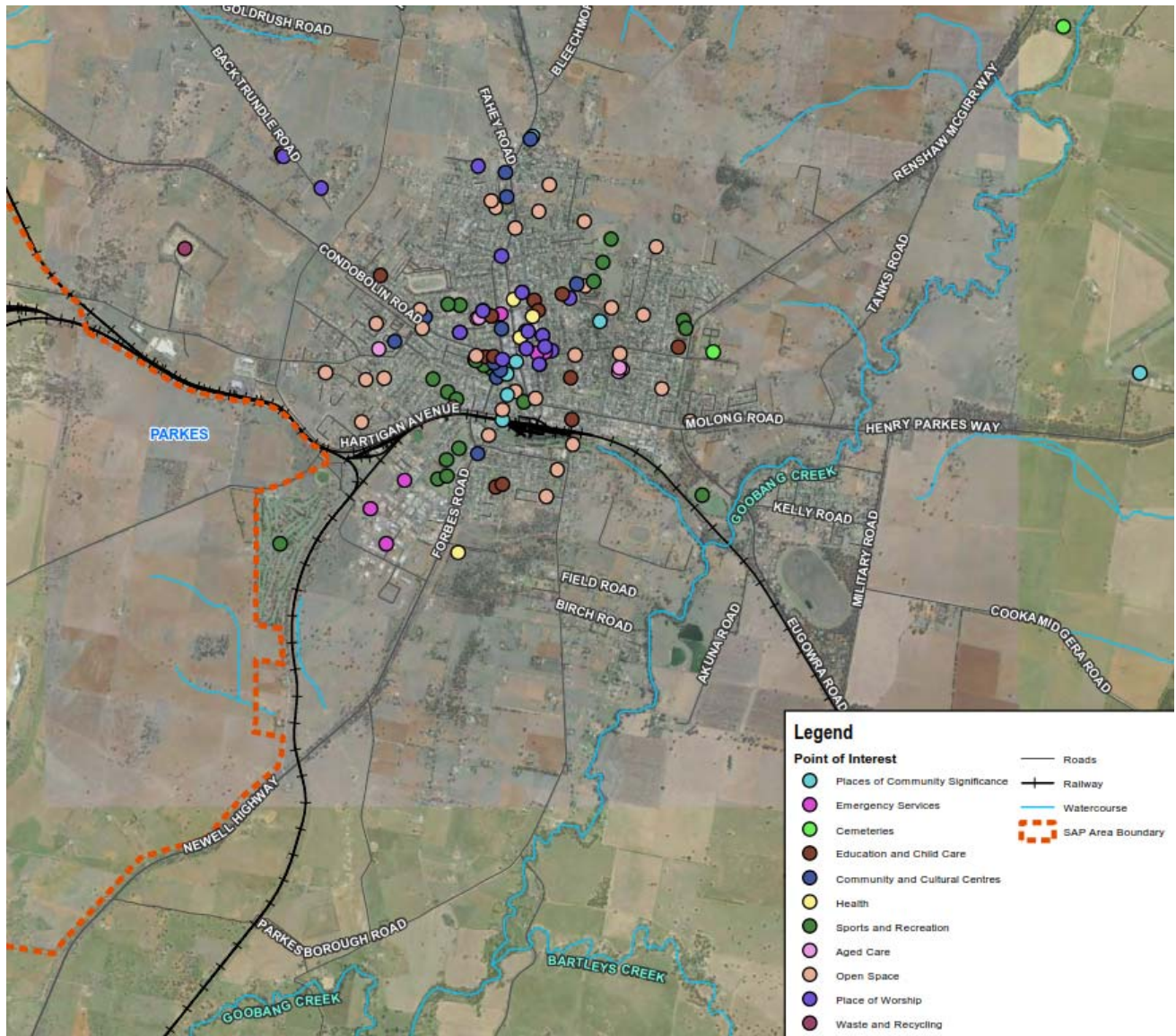


Figure 5.1 Social infrastructure provision – Parkes

5.2.1 COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTRES

5.2.1.1 STATUS

The Parkes township is home to some cultural and community spaces. This type of infrastructure can build community cohesion by providing a place for residents to gather and for local services to be accessed. The following social and recreational infrastructure can be found in Parkes township:

- The Henry Parkes Centre: tourism complex and cultural precinct located on the northern side of town, incorporating 4 museums and the Parkes Visitor Information Centre.
- The Parkes Little Theatre is major arts facility owned by the Parkes LGA and suitable for functions and exhibitions.
- Parkes Shire library and Coventry Room. The Parkes Shire Council Library Service is comprised of four libraries - a central library at Parkes township with branches at Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore.
- The new Parkes Community Centre located in Rose Street is a multipurpose hall co-funded by Parkes LGA and the NSW Government under the Strong Country Communities Fund. The hall can be used for a variety of functions.
- The Wiradjuri Amphitheatre: a newly built amphitheatre facility at the southern side of Bushman Hill that allows visitors to learn about the local indigenous culture of the Wiradjuri people.
- The Cooke Park Community Centre is a multi-purpose hall in Cooke Park that can be used for a variety of functions. However, the current Community Centre is scheduled for demolition to make way for a new Multipurpose Centre.

5.2.1.2 CONSULTATION

While Parkes township is reasonably well serviced when it comes to community and cultural centres, a number of stakeholders throughout consultation noted that there could be more centres or activities targeted at older teens and young adults to increase the desirability of living in Parkes township. One example given was a local cinema.

The NSW Government has developed the *Cultural Infrastructure Plan 2025+ (The Plan)* as a guide for the planning and delivery of cultural infrastructure that will support a dynamic cultural sector. *The Plan* provides a strategic approach for planning cultural infrastructure across the state. It follows the \$1.62 billion of Government investment that has been already committed towards major cultural infrastructure projects across NSW. Parkes Shire Council and Forbes Shire Council participated in the workshops and face to face engagement for the development of *The Plan*.

5.2.2 COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

5.2.2.1 STATUS

Community support services are provided by a number of organisations, including Parkes LGA, which are mostly not for profit. Services are offered across a range of needs, with some organisations catering for more than one group within their organisation. Neighbourhood Central offers the broadest range of services.

- Neighbourhood Central is a community based centre servicing Parkes township, Forbes and Lachlan Region, funded by local, state and federal government. This centre offers a wide range of services, information, advocacy and referral to the local community focusing on vulnerable, isolated or at risk population. Programs exist for families, early childcare, youth, Aboriginal services, multicultural, aged care, disability, cancer and domestic violence support groups, and special interest groups. Further details can be found in Appendix B.
- Benevolent Society is a not-for-profit and non-religious charity which supports people with disabilities, children, families, older Australians and carers. The Benevolent Society has partnered with Bila Muuji Aboriginal Corporation Health Service to offer the Rural Youth Mental Health (RYMH) service.
- LiveBetter Community Services delivers a range of aged, disability, carer, child and family, mental health and clinical services.
- Currajong Disability Services is a not for profit provider of disability services in the Parkes township, Forbes, Peak Hill, Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo and Central West Region.

Parkes LGA also has several positions dedicated to supporting the community, including a Youth Officer and Aboriginal Projects Officer.

Neighbourhood Central offers a number of programs for youth including:

- **R.A.G.E.**
Re-navigating Anger and Guilty Emotions is an anger management program for youth aged between 11 and 17 years run over six sessions.
- **Love Bites**
Love Bites is a school based youth program for 14 to 16 year olds to educate and promote safe and respectful relationships. This program has a community approach and is co-facilitated by Community Partners.
- **Managing the Bull**
Managing the Bull is a six-week course that builds resilience in bullied teens through games, activities and discussions in a safe, supportive environment.
- **Boys Group**
Peak Hill Boys Group provides a safe space for Peak Hill boys aged 8 to 16 years to experience constructive fun along with educational and cultural experiences.

Additionally, the Parkes Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) hosts many programs and child care for younger children and a safe drivers' course is available for teenagers. As outlined above, Neighbourhood Central managed most community services.

5.2.2.2 CONSULTATION

The broad range of community services is a clear reflection of the active community in Parkes township. The community support and mentality of “helping those in need” was a key characteristic of the Parkes township community that was mentioned throughout consultation. There are some gaps in service provision, for example activities for teenage girls.

5.2.3 EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

5.2.3.1 STATUS

Across Parkes LGA there are six early education/childcare facilities. There are also two after school care services in Parkes township, including PCYC KidzCare and Parkes Outside School Hours Care.

Central West Family Day Care, managed by Parkes LGA, has 51 educators and at least 300 families using their services a week. In response to current and forecast growth, \$2 million is to be spent on repurposing the community health building on the former hospital site for Central West Family Day Care to provide child care, preschool, before and after school care, and other services for children aged zero to 12 years.

There is only one dedicated early education centre in Forbes.

5.2.3.2 CONSULTATION

Of the facilities responding to questions, each had capacity for additional enrolments. Comments were made that employees who work in Parkes place their children in child care in Parkes, which would be consistent with the lack of childcare options in Forbes.

5.2.4 PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TAFE EDUCATION

5.2.4.1 STATUS

Parkes LGA has 14 primary and combined (Central) schools, two high schools and a regional branch of TAFE.

Parkes High School and Parkes Christian School provide secondary education facilities in the town. Both schools have capacity to accommodate more students.

Many students are known to travel from Parkes township to Red Bend Catholic College in Forbes township for their secondary education. Other students may attend boarding school outside the Parkes township.

Trundle, Peak Hill and Tullamore each offer a Central School providing public education for students from kindergarten to Year 12. Bogan Gate Public School provides education from kindergarten to Year 6 with students travelling to one of the other towns or boarding school for Year 7 to Year 12 education.

The TAFE at Parkes township offers training specialties in aged care, business, computing, children's services, foundation skills, hospitality, library information services, community services and welding.

Forbes township has three primary schools, two high schools and TAFE. The TAFE at Forbes offers vocational access and general education, together with trade programs in carpentry and joinery, along with a range of primary industries and natural resources options. The college also specialises in aged care, business, computing, hairdressing, retail and welding programs.

5.2.4.2 CONSULTATION

Discussions held with several education providers in both Parkes township and Forbes township indicated some schools in the area could accommodate additional enrolments of all ages. Some commentary was received about the difficulty to retain trained teachers in the area in the primary and secondary schools. Other observations involved the requirement of apprenticeship students having to travel to larger centres to complete the senior levels of their trade.

5.2.5 PLACES OF WORSHIP

5.2.5.1 STATUS

In the 2016 Census, 81% of the Parkes LGA identified as Christian. Most of the Parkes LGA's seventeen churches are devoted to Christian worship. Denominations include:

- Assemblies of God
- Anglican
- Baptist
- Catholic
- Generosity Church
- Jehovah Witness
- Lutheran
- Presbyterian
- Seventh Day Adventist.

5.2.5.2 CONSULTATION

Of the religious institutions approached to discuss religious participation in Parkes township, none were available to comment. Religious education institutions were contacted as part of consultation, who reported higher enrolment than non-religious government schools in the Central West Region.

5.2.6 HEALTH FACILITIES

5.2.6.1 STATUS

Parkes township is serviced by approximately 24 general practitioners across three medical practices. Other professional health services include hearing specialists, several dentists, physiotherapists and chiropractors, an imaging and radiography service. A community health unit includes speech therapists, community nurses, social workers, dieticians and mental health professionals.

Other towns in Parkes LGA are serviced by smaller medical practices or visiting services.

Forbes has one fully serviced medical centre in addition to the hospital.

Both Parkes and Forbes have centres specific to the provision of health care for the local Indigenous population.

Hospital and health services in Parkes and Forbes LGA's is governed by the Lachlan Health Council as part of the Western NSW Local Health District. Under this governance structure various reforms to facilities and services have occurred, including \$72.8 million on a new hospital at Parkes township and \$40.9 million for the redevelopment of Forbes Hospital.

The new state of the art Parkes Hospital was completed in November 2015. The facility provides a new base from which to provide regional public health care, with capability to provide various part and full time speciality medical consultation and services. Permanent services include an emergency department, medical imaging, ambulatory care, inpatient units and birthing suites.

Forbes Hospital underwent a major refurbishment between 2014 and 2016. Some speciality medical services not offered in Parkes township are provided for in Forbes, and vice versa.

The Peak Hill Multipurpose Service (MPS) was also completed in 2015 and is the coordination point for the Peak Hill community in relation to a range of health and aged care services.

The site of the former Parkes Hospital will be repurposed to provide other community infrastructure (see Central West Family Day Care, in section 5.2.3).

5.2.6.2 CONSULTATION

Common feedback from all stakeholders was that there is a lack of specialist services visiting Parkes township, leading to long waitlists or the need to travel to other towns. Similarly, the new Parkes Hospital has some services, but patients will often be transferred amongst other hospitals in Forbes and Orange depending on bed capacity or services required.

5.2.7 AGED CARE

5.2.7.1 STATUS

Between 2006 and 2016, persons aged over the age of 60 years increased the most for the region. This correlates with trends of an ageing population in Regional NSW. Persons aged between 30 and 49 years declined during the same decade. The median age of Parkes LGA is 41, older than the NSW average of 38, with each age group over 50 contributing to a higher percentage of the population than NSW averages.

There is a range of aged care services and retirement living, home care and residential aged care facilities available in the Parkes LGA.

5.2.7.2 CONSULTATION

All aged care service providers highlighted a key issue in finding suitably qualified staff for the aged care industry.

5.2.8 EMERGENCY SERVICES

5.2.8.1 STATUS

The Parkes township includes:

- Hospital Emergency department
- Ambulance
- Police Station (24-hour station)
- Other Police stations exist in Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore. None of these Police stations is 24 hour
- Fire Station (there is also a fire station at Peak Hill but not in Trundle or Tullamore)
- Mid Lachlan Valley Rural Fire Service – 24 brigades across the Parkes LGA with headquarters in Forbes
- State Emergency Service (SES) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in Parkes. The SES also has units in Peak Hill and Trundle.

The Forbes township includes:

- Hospital emergency department
- Ambulance
- Police Station (not a 24-hour station)
- Fire Station
- Mid Lachlan Valley Rural Fire Service with its headquarters in Forbes.
- State Emergency Service (SES) unit.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) aims to reduce the likelihood and consequence of fires occurring. This involves comprehensive risk management programs to reduce bush fire hazards, reduce fire ignitions and the development of regulations for bush fire prone areas.

The Parkes LGA has 24 Rural Fire Service brigades, which form part of the Mid Lachlan Valley Team (MLVT), with its headquarters based in Forbes.

The brigades are usually the first call for any reported incidents within a particular area due to the crew being readily available and capable of a quick response.

The brigades respond to approximately 70 incidents a year with these including house and grass fires, motor vehicle accidents and aiding the State Emergency Service following severe storms.

5.2.8.2 CONSULTATION

Conversations with various emergency services in Parkes township and across the Central West Region found that the future growth of Parkes township would not have a great impact to their service provision. Currently, all services are well resourced and able to cater with demand. Additional staffing may be required if there is a significant increase in population and therefore greater requirement for services.

5.3 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Parkes Shire Council manages approximately 50 separate parks, reserves and ovals which provide for activities such as walking, bike riding, picnics and barbecues, playgrounds and organised sport.

There are several regional level sporting facilities located in Parkes as well as international standard hockey facilities. There are also multiple large reserves with dedicated Rugby, AFL, and Cricket facilities. Other sporting and recreation facilities include the Parkes Golf Club, Parkes Aquatic Centre and swimming pools in Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore.

5.4 PLACES OF COMMUNITY SIGNIFICANCE

Places of community significance are geographically specific places that contribute to a sense of identity and promote social relationships in the community. The Parkes township is home to significant cultural and community spaces. These spaces can act as an anchor for the existing communities, but also draw people from outside into the local area. Places of cultural significance include the CSIRO Parkes Observatory, the Northparkes mine and the Parkes National Logistics Hub.

6 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

With the development of Pacific National’s terminal and construction of the Inland Rail underway, the Parkes SAP would create new jobs in the freight and logistics industry. The range of enquiries fielded by Parkes LGA about potential development across a range of industries indicates the Parkes SAP has the potential to optimise existing agricultural, mining and freight industries while developing new and related industries such as meat processing and energy conversion.

The following provides a generalised assessment of potential changes in population without the Parkes SAP and then with the Parkes SAP.

6.1 FUTURE POPULATION – NO SAP

Available profiling of Parkes indicates the township has a relatively stable population which, based on services provision and job opportunities, could grow slightly in the future.

As per the DPE population projections, the population in Parkes LGA is expected to increase slightly with a three per cent change. DPE’s population projections also indicate for the period 2016 to 2036 an overall population decrease for the region by approximately 1,700 persons. Forbes LGA will experience a decline in population at -9.0 per cent.

Table 6.1 Population projections by LGA (persons)

YEAR	PARKES LGA	FORBES LGA
2016	15,250	9,400
2026	15,600	9,100
2036	15,700	8,550

Source: *Parkes SAP Land Use Analysis based on Department of Planning and Environment, 2016 NSW and LGA Population Projections.*

6.2 SHORT LISTED SCENARIOS

Three scenarios were developed for further consideration and potential progression through the Parkes SAP Master Plan process. These scenarios were the most desirable and plausible by Government, high level stakeholders, planning experts, and industry leaders, to progress for further analysis. At this stage the CSIA considered a high-level estimate of population and a generalised assessment of potential impacts and issues for further consideration until a single plan could be considered which is the subject of Section 6.3.

6.2.1.1 SCENARIO 1: LOWER DEVELOPMENT SCALE

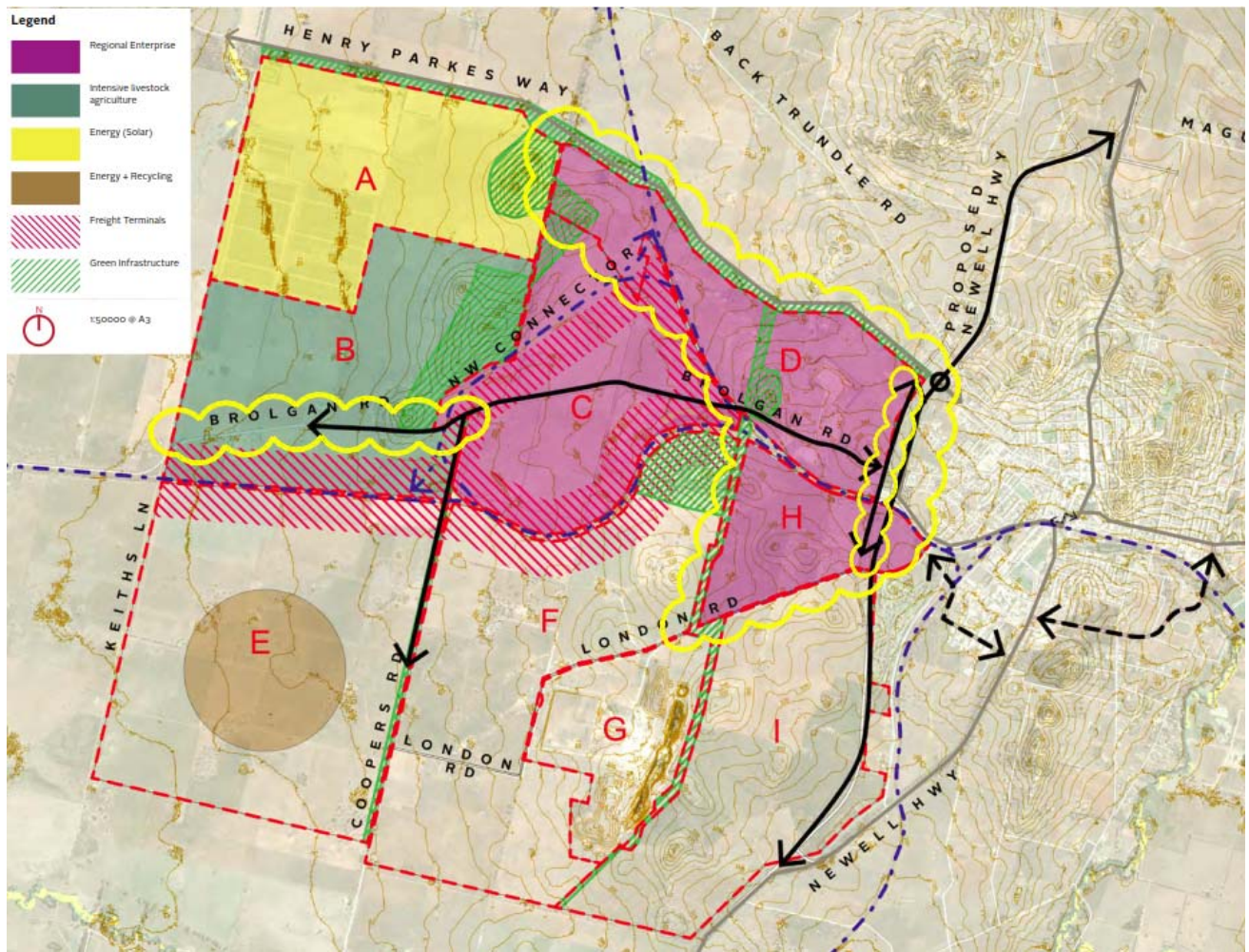


Figure 6.1 Scenario 1: Lower development scale

DESCRIPTION

A total project area of 3,344 ha with Regional Enterprise (1064 ha) and Freight Terminals (306 ha) focussed on Pacific National and SCT land, intensive livestock agriculture (803 ha) along Brolgan Road, energy precinct (250 ha) on Coopers Road comprising 50 ha Waste to Energy site. Option for direct rail access via private terminal. A green overlay (231 ha) on elevated land separates the regional enterprise and freight terminals.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Location of high intensive agriculture
- Opportunities to extend green and open space.

6.2.1.2 SCENARIO 3: HIGH DEVELOPMENT SCALE

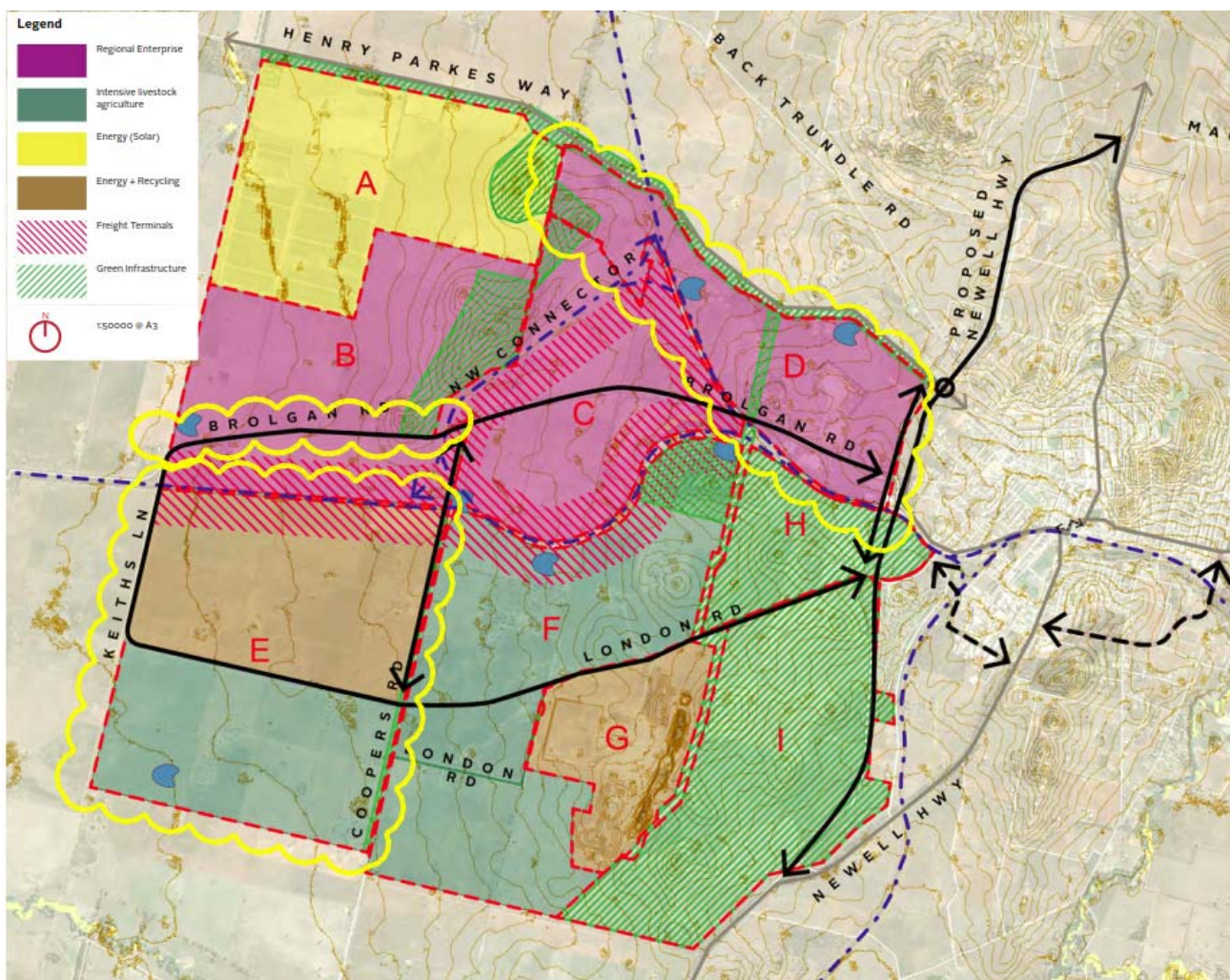


Figure 6.2 Scenario 3: High development scale

DESCRIPTION

North of the railway, the Regional Enterprise area is extended to the west with rail access to a potential third multi-user terminal between Brolgan Road and the east-west rail line. South of the railway, a parcel is assigned to intensive livestock with potential for a private rail terminal on the south side of the line and buffering using Westlime site.

A major waste-to-energy use (900 ha) with recycling is assigned to Parkes SAP sub-precinct E. Parkes SAP sub-precinct H and I, between the Parkes SAP and Parkes SAP sub-precinct and other areas of green overlay are proposed for carbon offset planting, contributing to a low carbon SAP, with higher amenity and conservation values. An enlarged transport network includes Keiths Lane and London Road joining in a loop with Brolgan Road.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Placement of green infrastructure would reduce amenity impacts on the Parkes township
- Opportunities to extend green and open space
- The ability for local services, facilities, roads and utilities to service the workforce and community.

6.2.1.3 SCENARIO 6: HIGH SCALE OF DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING A NEW AIRPORT

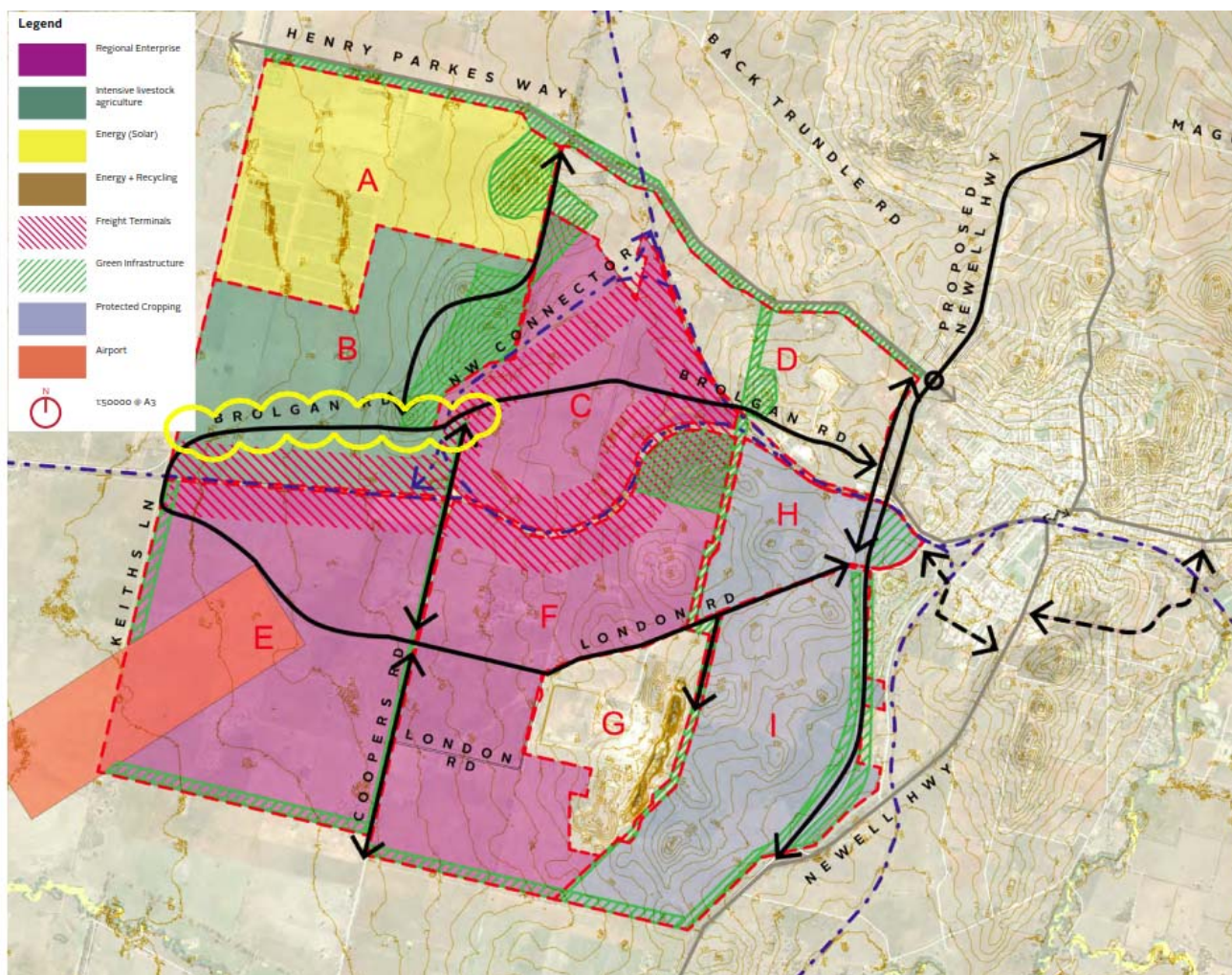


Figure 6.3 Scenario 6: High scale of development Including a new airport

DESCRIPTION

Includes high scale of development including a new airport partly outside the study area to the south west. Additional Regional Enterprise uses are assigned around the airport. Freight Terminals 542 ha and Regional Enterprise 1929 ha.

Intensive livestock agriculture (803 ha) is included. This scenario shows parcels of land used for protected cropping. The new transport network to the airport involves a new route for London Road to Keiths Lane with connection to Brolgan Road via Coopers Road and Keiths Lane.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Reduced employment potential
- Opportunities to extend green and open space
- The ability for local services, facilities, roads and utilities to service the workforce and community
- Access to the airport, safety and proximity to Parkes township as flights increase over time
- The need for specialised training and education to support the airport.

6.3 PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF INCOMING POPULATION – WITH SAP

The scenarios from Section 6.2 underwent high-level analyses to arrive at a final draft Master Plan for further planning purposes and to determine potential job creation, flow on employment and related population increases. Figure 6.4 shows the final draft Master Plan which job creation is based on. Key features of the design include:

- Regional Enterprise area of 1100 ha
- Intensive Livestock area of 1240 ha
- The existing Solar area of 680 ha
- Resources and Recycling area of 710 ha
- Commercial Gateways area of 110 ha
- Mixed Enterprise area of 300 ha.

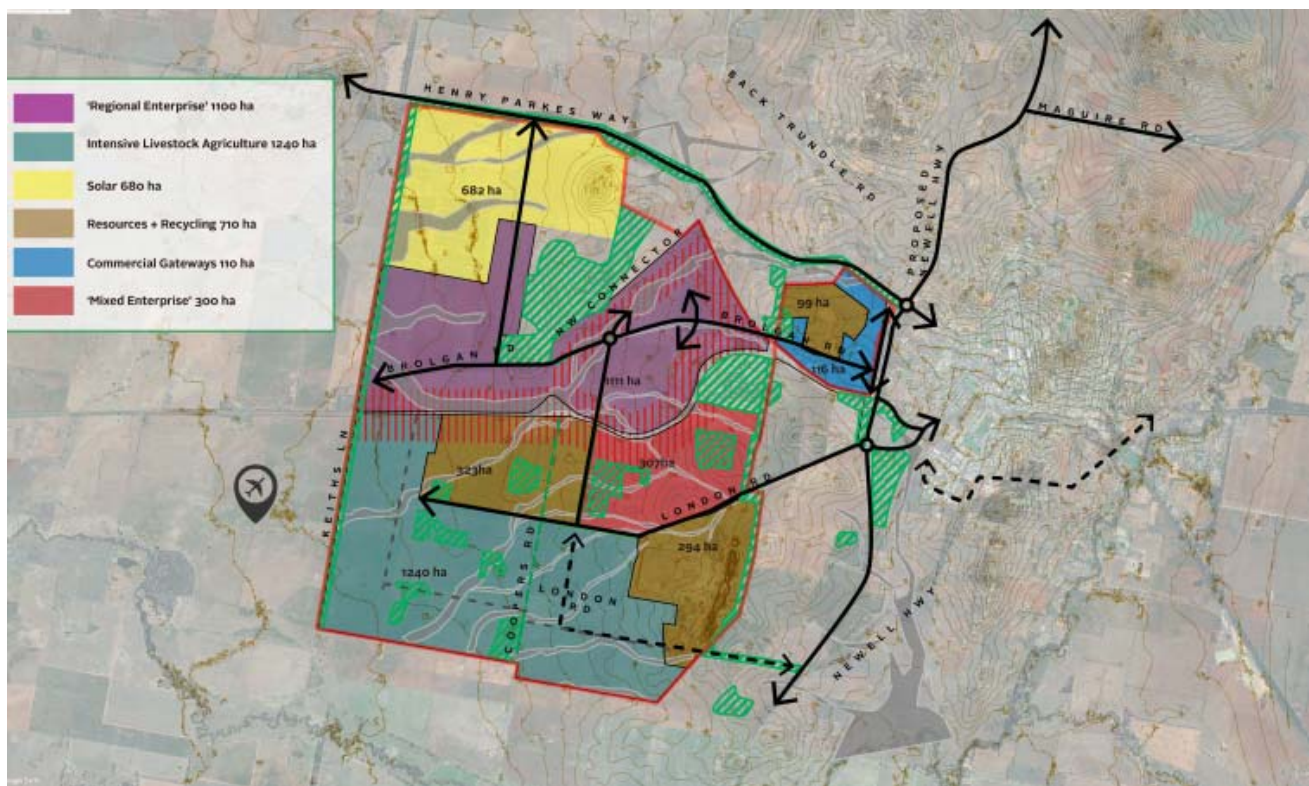


Figure 6.4 Final draft Master Plan

In terms of community services and social infrastructure, both the Parkes SAP and the multiplier jobs are of the most importance. All employment scenarios assume the delivery of an abattoir which is a large employer.

Due to the potential for different industries to come on line at different times the jobs and population increases in 2041 provide a basis for considering the full potential impact of the Parkes SAP. As noted in the Parkes Special Activation *Economic and Industry Analysis*, the potential for employment growth is not a reflection of true population growth and is a guide only to assessing likely impacts. Population projections that can be used in planning for and managing potential impacts associated with the Parkes SAP require further assessment of shifting employment and economic trends such as the effects of an aging population, and movement to and from Regional NSW.

Table 6.2 Parkes SAP employment and population projections

	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Employment (SAP only)					
Low Growth scenario	1,204	1,321	1,982	2,061	2,147
Medium Growth scenario	1,204	1,352	2,117	2,347	2,628
High Growth scenario	1,204	1,420	2,301	2,751	3,016
Employment (Multipliers – in whole Parkes LGA)					
Low Growth scenario	991	1,087	1,631	1,696	1,767
Medium Growth scenario	991	1,113	1,742	1,931	2,162
High Growth scenario	991	1,168	1,893	2,264	2,482
Total Employment (whole of Parkes LGA)					
Low Growth scenario	2,195	2,408	3,613	3,757	3,913
Medium Growth scenario	2,195	2,465	3,859	4,278	4,790
High Growth scenario	2,195	2,588	4,194	5,015	5,498

Three growth scenarios and their potential implication for the Parkes LGA population were assessed and it was estimated the possible high range population required to support the total jobs at 2041 would be 31,382. This is over double the population projection without the Parkes SAP.

It is likely that the potential population is over-stated, as some proportion of the jobs will likely be filled by people already living in the study area or just outside, or by existing population transitioning from other employment sectors. However, using the growth scenarios will at least ensure that service provision and infrastructure is sufficient.

Based on the current service provision, infrastructure and housing it is expected that any increase in population would create significant impacts on the Parkes township community. A potential for an increase in population beyond business as usual, and the associated changing demographic and needs of the population by 2041, needs to be considered early. Indications from desktop research and stakeholder consultation it can be concluded that it is highly likely that the total of new and shifting employment related to the Parkes SAP will impact the capacity of local services and infrastructure. The cumulative impact on service provision will depend on the rate of increased population as a result of the Parkes SAP.

7 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

7.1 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Interviews were undertaken in Parkes township with local stakeholders and service providers to understand local and regional facilities and services, what makes Parkes township unique, current local challenges and opportunities for the future. The feedback gained in these interviews will be consolidated into the CSIA.

Most interviews were conducted on 25 and 26 March with the following stakeholders:

- Parkes Shire Council
- Parkes Chamber of Commerce
- CENTROC
- Western NSW Local Health District and Parkes hospital
- Central West Police district
- Parkes Fire and Rescue
- Mid Lachlan Valley Rural Fire Service
- SES
- Peak Hill Aboriginal Lands Council
- Representatives from Department of Industry
- Representatives from Department of Education
- Representatives from Transport for NSW and Roads and Maritime
- Neighbourhood Central
- Central West Lachlan Landcare
- NSW Farmers Association – Central West.

7.2 CRITERIA FOR CONSULTATION

In assessing the community and social infrastructure in Parkes, a set of criteria is used to guide the consultation process.

Table 7.1 Criteria for needs assessment

CRITERIA	DEFINITION	RATIONALE
Aspirations and vision	Aspirations and vision refer to the ideal function of a place, how a community wants to change and how it organises to reach this ideal goal. How achievable the aspirations and visions are dependent on the capacity and willingness to change of all members of the community.	Aspirations and vision provide a community-driven goal to work towards and focus the Parkes SAP.
Population and demographics	Population and demographics refer to the make-up of our societies and how they function as a person, a household and a community. They explore the age, education levels, employment and incomes of the individuals and communities. Demographics also show relative disadvantage within society and highlight key industries within communities.	It is important to understand and consider the population and demographics of the Parkes SAP to ensure all potential scenarios for Parkes SAP enhance the local community.

CRITERIA	DEFINITION	RATIONALE
Services and facilities (current and predicted)	The services and facilities available to a community reflect the liveability of a place and can explain movement of people and money to neighbouring towns. Services and facilities such as affordable housing, education, health, emergency, community and care services are integral to community members' quality of life. Liveability is also measured by the provision of transport services and infrastructure that facilitates the movement and access to services across the region. It is essential that there is adequate provision of services and facilities that cater to all community groups, especially as populations grow and age.	It is important to know what current services and facilities are available, whether they are adequate and if they have further capacity to accommodate any increase in population or demand. By understanding what is available and where the gaps are, we can use the Parkes SAP to increase the service and facilities offering in Parkes township or at least consult with the existing service and facility stakeholders to help plan for future growth.
Community identity	Community identity refers to the local character, perspectives and people which contribute to the overall feel and direction of a place. It speaks to the attitudes, liveability and resilience of an area and community, and considers the treatment of vulnerable groups and supporting community networks.	Understanding the identity of the Parkes township community is important to ensure the Parkes SAP gains local buy in and enhances, rather than challenges, the existing attitudes, needs and perspectives.

7.3 CONSULTATION KEY THEMES AND ISSUES

A summary of key themes from stakeholder interviews have been provided below. The list of questions asked has been included in Appendix C.

7.3.1 ASPIRATIONS AND VISION

All participants acknowledged the Parkes National Logistics Hub and Parkes SAP as having positive outcomes for the town. They see economic benefit for the region and further improvement for the local area to cope with economic downturn, such as times of drought, due to the broader employment opportunities the hub and precinct would offer.

Participants were confident the vision of the Parkes SAP, and the Parkes National Logistics Hub, would be fulfilled leading to a natural expansion of services and facilities offered in Parkes township, making it an even more desirable area to live.

The community also recognises several shortcomings that will need to be addressed to fully realise the opportunities of the Parkes National Logistics Hub and Parkes SAP, including permanent and rental housing, and the retention or return of skilled young people.

Attracting professionals from across the spectrum of industry is also recognised as key issues that need to be addressed. This is currently considered particularly difficult where one individual in a couple relationship might have to forego their career progression, as there is only employment for one of them.

A number of stakeholders suggested a variety of policy and incentives would be required to address issues they identified.

7.3.2 POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants were positive about an increase in the population in Parkes township and the diversification of the job market, as they indicated it would bring more services to the town and further enhance its ability to withstand adversity. They did recognise that certain sectors, such as vocational education, would need to expand, however they did not express clear views on the broader demographic composition.

7.3.3 SERVICES AND FACILITIES

An audit of social infrastructure of Parkes township needs to consider that certain elements of responsibility are shared with the nearby town of Forbes. For example, although Parkes township has the larger population, the regional headquarters for the State Emergency Services is based in Forbes; the administration office for the Catholic diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes is also in Forbes township; yet Parkes township has a 24-hour Police Station and Forbes township does not.

A new hospital with state of the art facilities was built on a greenfield site and completed in 2015 with capacity to absorb a higher uptake of the services offered. Provision has been made for additional visiting specialists to work from the hospital, however, this has proven difficult to implement.

Places in aged care facilities are readily available, although the availability of accredited staff is difficult to secure to support the needs of those places. Services and programs exist to enable the elderly to remain active and independent within the community for as long as possible.

The majority of early child care and education facilities are currently below capacity, however, a small shift in population would see some reach capacity.

Community support services provide some level of support to a broad range of demographic groups from Aboriginal and aged care, to support for young families, victims of bullying and domestic violence, disability groups and support services for carers, to programs for young people outside school and the school term.

Green space and sporting fields are considered to be well catered for in the community.

There are numerous places of worship, with the addition of the Christian School in recent years an extension of the Baptist Church community.

Creative opportunities are available through a number of programs, youth theatre space, galleries, and local festivals.

Tourism and hospitality services are quite extensive for a town with the population of Parkes township, with several local attractions, a major highway, railway, and airport providing multi-modal opportunities for visitors from a variety of backgrounds with a range of interests.

7.3.4 COMMUNITY IDENTITY

When asked about identity, participants commonly mentioned the community's pride in sporting achievements, its tourism, its agricultural and mining heritage, and the progressive nature of the town as shown by a mix of employment type. Parkes LGA was mentioned by all participants for its proactive involvement to continuously providing improvements, new services, and opportunities for the town to thrive.

Participants indicated the town offered more diverse employment opportunities than other towns of similar size which helped, in their opinion, cope better in times of stress such as the current drought.

Parkes township is the home of several high-level hockey representatives. The international standard hockey facilities reflect the townships desire to continue to offer facilities and opportunities for aspiring hockey players.

People are exceptionally proud of the annual Elvis Festival. The festival has grown from a simple idea, to an internationally popular event, and the townspeople are proud of their combined ability to organise and host the event. Pride in the event is expressed in numerous and permanent accommodation facilities with Elvis-related names such as Gracelands. Likewise, the CSIRO 'dish' is recognised as a local and international symbol of innovation and has influenced a number of motel names such as Apollo.

8 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

There are no identified benchmarks or guidelines for the provision of community facilities in the Parkes Local Government Area (LGA). In the absence of specific benchmarks for Parkes township, the location and design of future community facilities within the area should be guided by principles such as place making, high accessibility and public safety, integration, multipurpose design and sustainable design.

This community and social infrastructure assessment uses benchmarks for provision set out in the following:

- New South Wales, Children (Education and Care Services) Supplementary Provisions Regulation (2012)
- NSW State Library, People Places Population Based Area Calculator (2016)
- NSW Government, Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines (2010).

Table 8.1 summarises the open space and recreation facility benchmarks applied in this assessment. This CSIA has referenced the default standards for open space planning in NSW as outlined in the State Government’s Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines for Local Government (Department of Planning 2010) to assess current provision and identify gaps.

There is an oversupply of open space areas in towns and villages of the Parkes LGA. Consequently, Parkes LGA is contemplating a draft Development Control Plan that limits provision of new parks to 'greenfield' subdivisions only. It is anticipated that new parks provided in greenfield situations will generally only be neighbourhood parks at a rate of 1 hectare open space per 1,000 people. Neighbourhood parks are typically used for recreation that include playground facilities and are in residential areas generally within 400 metres of each dwelling.

Table 8.1 Open space and recreation facilities benchmarks (NSW Department of Planning 2010)

TYPE	HIERARCHY	SIZE	DISTANCE FROM MOST DWELLINGS	ALTERNATIVE PROVISION
Parks	Local open spaces: caters to a local neighbourhood area in urban areas where users predominantly walk or cycle to use the facility because it is reasonably close to residences	0.5-2 ha	400 m	Civic spaces, plazas, pocket parks, regional park or conservation area
	District open spaces: service catchments of less than one LGA or several neighbourhoods but can service a catchment spanning across two LGAs.	2-5 ha	2 km	Foreshore areas, conservation areas
	Regional open spaces: serve whole cities, metropolitan districts or one or more local government areas; or a regional centre and multiple towns and villages in non-metropolitan areas	5+ ha	5–10 km	NA
Outdoor sport	Local open spaces: caters to a local neighbourhood area in urban areas where users predominantly walk or cycle to use the facility because it is reasonably close to residences	5 ha	1 km	Local primary schools, portion of a district park
	District open spaces: service catchments of less than one LGA or several neighbourhoods but can service a catchment spanning across two LGAs.	5-10 ha	2 km	Secondary schools, portion of a regional park
	Regional open spaces: serve whole cities, metropolitan districts or one or more local government areas; or a regional centre and multiple towns and villages in non-metropolitan areas	10+ ha	5–10 km	NA

Table 8.2 outlines facility requirements based on available benchmark assessment.

Table 8.2 Needs and benchmark assessment

INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT PROVISION	BENCHMARK REQUIREMENT	FUTURE DEMAND	RECOMMENDATION
<p>Child care facilities (0-4 year old)</p> <p>After school care (5-9 year old)</p>	<p>Six early education/childcare facilities.</p> <p>Two after school care services in Parkes township, at PCYC KidzCare and Parkes Outside School Hours Care.</p>	<p>Early Childhood Centre 1 for every 4,000–6,000 people.</p> <p>Child Care Centre (Long day care) 1 centre for every 5–7 children aged 0–4.</p> <p>Occasional Care 1 for every 12,000–15,000 people.</p> <p>Pre-school 1 for every 4,000–6,000 people.</p> <p>Vacation Care 1 for every 4,000–6,000 people.</p>	<p>Population projections suggest 7% of future population will be 0–4 year olds. The same projections indicate that current population of 1,100 people between that age range per Census 2016, will remain consistent with 1,100 people in 2026 and 1,050 people in 2036.</p> <p>Based on stakeholder consultation, the provision of child care is noted to be limited within the study area with existing long day care centres being operated on publicly owned buildings (see Central West Family Day Care).</p>	<p>A new 40–60 place <i>after school and vacation</i> centre care may be accommodated within the new multi-purpose centre that will replace the current Community Centre in Cooke Park.</p> <p>Floor Space: approximately 400 sqm.</p> <p>The potential provision of a new after school and <i>vacation</i> centre care facility to address potential population growth associated with the expansion of the mine.</p>

INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT PROVISION	BENCHMARK REQUIREMENT	FUTURE DEMAND	RECOMMENDATION
Public schools	Parkes Public School (K-6) Trundle Central School (K-12) Bogan Gate Public School Middleton Public School (K-6) Parkes East Public School (K-6) Forbes Public School (K-6) Forbes North Public School (K-6) Tullamore Central School (K-12) Peak Hill Central School (K-12) High Schools: Parkes High School (7-12) Forbes High School (7-12) Two Regional Branches Of TAFE Forbes TAFE Parkes TAFE	1 new school per 1,500 dwellings. Up to 6,000 dwellings generates demand for the equivalent of 4 primary schools.	The Department of Education has advised NSW Land and Housing Corporation that additional classrooms in multistorey buildings could accommodate up to 1,000 students if required.	Community consultation indicated the absence of facilities oriented to provide youth services. Explore opportunities to co-locate uses including performing arts, recreation space on existing school sites and multipurpose centres.
Local Open space	Lions Park Memorial Hill Boulder Hill Bushmans Hill	0.5 to 2 hectares within 400 m of residences (per the NSW Government's Recreation and Open Space Planning Guidelines 2010).	Future population within a 400 m radius of town centre has ample access to existing local open space.	Exceeds benchmark standards.

INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT PROVISION	BENCHMARK REQUIREMENT	FUTURE DEMAND	RECOMMENDATION
District Open Space	Kelly Reserve Cooke Park	2 to 5 hectares within 2km radius of dwellings.	NSW Department of Planning benchmarks suggests future population within a 2 km radius of town centre has ample access to existing district level open space.	Exceeds benchmark standards.
Regional Outdoor Sport	Northparkes Oval	10+ hectares within 5–10 km radius of residences.	NSW Department of Planning benchmarks suggests future population within a 1 km radius of town centre has access to existing regional sporting and recreation facilities.	Exceeds benchmark standards.
Health	There are four medical and health centres in the Parkes township, three in Peak Hill, three in Forbes and one centre in Trundle and Tullamore townships.	Not readily available.	<p>Future population growth could generate demand for additional smaller facilities that offer specialised services.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation indicated that there is a need for more local specialised services (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy) professionals and facilities that meet the needs of the diverse future population.</p> <p>Renovated and new multi-purpose centres can accommodate a variety of activity and program areas as well as space for services to be provided both on a permanent basis.</p>	<p>Explore opportunities to locate community health services as part of the renovated and new multipurpose centres.</p> <p>Support regional and district level reviews of health and aged care provision outside Parkes township. Population growth and aging population could contribute towards additional demand for these services.</p>

INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT PROVISION	BENCHMARK REQUIREMENT	FUTURE DEMAND	RECOMMENDATION
Community and cultural centres	Parkes township has six cultural and community spaces.	Not readily available.	The projected profile of younger residents and upcoming families could suggest an increased need for education and youth-focussed services, e-learning and digital hubs.	<p>Explore opportunities to create spaces and cultural programs for children and young people, for Aboriginal arts, and for professional and contemporary arts development.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to implement the recommendations included in the Cultural Spaces Plan for Parkes LGA, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Parkes Community Art Space – Parkes LGA to build an iconic new building in Cooke Park with galleries, workshop, contemporary public art, arts and crafts gift shop, café, amenities and outdoor stage. — Parkes Cultural Precinct – a precinct in the heart of Parkes township defined by public art, gathering places, and walkways connecting the cluster of cultural spaces. — Parkes Community Art Space, Cooke Park, the Library and Cultural Centre and Little Theatre – to the town square, café and retail strip in Clarinda Street. — Parkes Picture Palace adapted as space for music and dance (if feasible).

INFRASTRUCTURE TYPE	CURRENT PROVISION	BENCHMARK REQUIREMENT	FUTURE DEMAND	RECOMMENDATION
Emergency services	<p>There is a police station in Parkes township, Trundle and Tullamore, and Forbes.</p> <p>One fire and rescue station in Parkes, Peak Hill and Forbes.</p> <p>There is an Ambulance Service and a NSW State Emergency Services in Parkes township, Peak Hill, Trundle, and Forbes.</p>	Not readily available.	Increased population and incident rates.	Ongoing engagement is required to enable emergency services to adequately plan.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

The CSIA has identified requirements that will assist Parkes township and Forbes township to take full advantage of the Parkes SAP and ensure the Local Government Area (LGA) can respond to and accommodate job creation and associated population increases.

9.1 FUTURE PROVISION OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- **Work collaboratively and reduce local silos.** In delivering the five core elements of the Parkes SAP (Government-led studies, fast-track planning, Government-led development, infrastructure development, and business concierge), outlined in the introduction section of this report, Government can work with local service providers, the Chamber of Commerce, local developers and industry groups to broaden and improve the housing market in Parkes township. Most participants involved in the stakeholder engagement process highlighted the importance of ensuring housing capacity and access while keeping the relative cost as low as possible. Combined with other economic growth in the area, there is a high potential for the Parkes SAP to increase pressures on residential and commercial land, the need for development and rental properties.
- **Increase health services.** The recently completed hospital in Parkes township, and refurbishment of the Forbes Hospital can cope with some increase in population, however, these projects were completed based on data prior to the Parkes SAP growth projections. The hospital and other health services will require monitoring to ensure services cope with any predicted increases in population. Efforts to recruit and retain general practitioners to the area need to be ongoing to cope with existing and ongoing demand placed on doctor-patient ratios.
- **Consider open spaces.** As sport and recreation is a key aspect of the Parkes township and Forbes township community life and values the development and integration of open space, recreational areas and sporting fields will be important to help support the increased populations. Local plans and strategies would need to be updated and adjusted to accommodate potential changes.
- **Upgrade education services and facilities.** It is advantageous for the sustainability of Parkes township for the local school-aged population to stay in Parkes township and gain further opportunities through the Parkes SAP. This approach should be linked to maintaining teachers long-term, expanding courses, and developing facilities that increase higher education rates and improve certification. In turn this would help to diversify opportunities and help industry to contend with changes in the agricultural mix, potential new wave industry in the Parkes SAP, and the shortage of trade professionals required to meet the demand in housing development and maintenance. Other trades associated with population increase and industry change, such as auto mechanics, also need to be considered.
- **Take advantage of the Parkes SAP planning to advance higher education.** The Parkes township and Forbes township community should be supported to take advantage of linkages with universities and research groups that support and can be integrated with the predicted land uses. Online access and courses relevant to the Parkes SAP or campus facilities would assist in increasing educational attainment, retention of school leavers, and support industries associated with the Parkes SAP.
- **Increase local community service provision.** The multiplier applied to job growth for predicting whole population growth indicates some increase in new families to the area. The shifting demographic profile will change the proportion of working and school aged population. Services and facilities such as youth support, early education, training and apprenticeships, recreation and open space should be increased to accommodate these groups.

9.2 MAINTAINING VALUES AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- **Maintain local connections with Forbes to help manage short-term changes in population.** Build on the existing regional focus for service provision. Parkes township and Forbes township already maintain high levels of coordinated services and facilities and further assessment is required to determine how these facilities and services can be improved or increased to meet current and future needs.
- **Develop a Master Plan that acknowledges local challenges and issues.** The Parkes Master Plan of the SAP will incorporate cutting edge design, high levels of sustainability, innovation and ongoing learnings that can be shared with the community and the agricultural sector to improve outcomes and help manage issues, such as drought, which broadly affect the community.
- **Maintain community identity in the Parkes SAP design.** While the Parkes SAP is separated from the township it is critical that the Parkes township community can feel part of the development and associated benefits. A sense of belonging and ownership can be developed through ensuring local amenity is maintained and improved, the community can understand directly how opportunities are being created through the Parkes SAP, and help shape its progress where practicable.

9.3 COORDINATED APPROACH TO DELIVERING SOCIAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES RELATED TO THE SAP

- **Create one community services and facilities group with local representation.** The group would be established to undertake coordinated approaches to planning. This approach is directly linked to fast tracking development approvals as one central representative group can review new developments, assess local changes quickly and work collaboratively to manage related impacts. Ensuring a central group is established for all service provision will assist the Parkes township community to also plan for cumulative changes associated with flow-on development and Parkes SAP growth.
- **Create partnerships.** There are a range of opportunities to partner with councils, Aboriginal groups, state government, non-government and private sector bodies in delivering and funding social and community infrastructure to maximise benefits and manage potential shortfalls. Partnering between the Parkes SAP industry and business groups will help to boost resourcing, create sustainable services, facilities and spaces that support the community.

9.4 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **Promote long-term engagement with stakeholders.** The Parkes township community, including key stakeholders maintain a very high level of interest in the community and progress of the Parkes National Logistics Hub and Parkes SAP. Maintaining contact and providing opportunities for input will help stakeholders, including community groups and businesses, to understand and plan for opportunities from the Parkes SAP planning and delivery process.

9.5 EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

- **Develop targets for local employment, training and procurement targets linked to each land use.** Some local businesses have started reaching out to companies like Pacific National looking for opportunities. Vocational courses for Stage 6 students at high school, and expansion of course offerings at TAFE have the potential to help meet some of the forecasted needs so industry and businesses should be encouraged to seek, train and retain local employees where practicable. This approach could be extended to include incentives for regional apprenticeships that can be used in businesses within the Parkes SAP or to help retain regional businesses outside the Parkes SAP which may experience a drain in workforce.

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APPENDIX A

REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS



A1 REGIONAL STRATEGIES AND PLANS

This Appendix reviews regional strategies and plans which include Parkes and the wider Central West and Orana area.

A1.1 CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA REGIONAL PLAN 2036

Department of Planning and Environment's Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 outlines four goals for Regional NSW, of which Parkes township is part of. Other major centres in Regional NSW include Condobolin, Cowra, Dubbo, Forbes and Orange. These regionally-focused goals are:

- the most diverse regional economy in NSW
- a stronger, healthier environment and diverse heritage
- quality freight, transport and infrastructure networks
- dynamic, vibrant and healthy communities.

Specifically, the key priorities for Parkes township as outlined in the Plan are to:

- develop Parkes as a National Logistics Hub, with supporting infrastructure including roads, rail and air linking Parkes township to capital cities and ports
- develop Parkes Regional Airport as an air freight hub
- work with the Australian Government and local councils as the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail progresses
- ensure adequate supply of residential, industrial and commercial land
- diversify the local economy by supporting new industry development and opportunities in agriculture, value-added manufacturing and the mining and resources sector
- improve telecommunications infrastructure, including high-speed internet connectivity
- facilitate the growth of local communities through cultural and socially supportive infrastructure
- develop and support the visitor economy and implement the objectives of the Destination Management Plan.

A1.2 REGIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 2017–2020

Regional Development Authority Central West have released the Regional Planning Framework (2017–2020) which highlights opportunities for the future development and growth of Parkes township. The following summarises the Framework's strategies to leverage off Parkes township position at the intersection of the East-West Intercontinental Railway and the proposed Inland Rail network.

- Parkes township is a consolidation point for rail traffic to and from Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. The Inland rail project offers an opportunity to promote Parkes township as a centre for freight consolidation and distribution. This would have flow on benefits for producers to streamline export freight, improve access to ports and minimise costs.
- The Parkes National Logistics Hub site is a special enterprise area specifically developed as a multi-modal freight and transport interchange. The Parkes National Logistics Hub will complement the Inland Railway and is already a driver of modal shift taking freight off the roads and transferring it to rail.
- Efficient intermodal terminals provide industry in the area with opportunities for large producers to switch freight modes, and for smaller producers to utilise rail.

A2 PARKES POLICY AND STRATEGIES

This section reviews relevant policies, strategies and plans prepared by the Parkes LGA.

A2.1 PARKES SHIRE 2030+ COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan sits above all other Parkes Shire Council plans and policies in the planning hierarchy. The purpose of the plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and plan strategies to achieve them. These strategies will take into consideration the issues and pressures that may affect the community and the level of resources that will realistically be available to them.

The Plan states that in 2022, Parkes Shire will be:

A progressive and smart regional centre, embracing a national logistics hub, with vibrant communities, diverse opportunities, learning and healthy lifestyles.

This vision statement is supported by future directives which are to:

- develop educational and lifelong learning opportunities
- improve health and wellbeing
- promote, support and grow communities
- grow and diversify the economic base
- develop Parkes as a national logistics hub
- enhance recreation and culture
- care for the natural and built environment in a changing culture
- maintain and improve the Shire's assets and infrastructure.



A2.2 DELIVERY PROGRAM 2017/18-2020/21

Following significant community consultation, this Delivery Program translates the community's strategic goals to actions to be undertaken by Council within the resources available. The Delivery Program is a statement of commitment to the community from Council, who must consider the community's priorities and expected levels of service and balance these with its resourcing restraints.

The Program outlines several objectives and actions to achieve the community-driven priorities. These have been organised by seven key themes:

- Transport
- Environment
- Community
- Activity
- H2O
- Economy
- Council.

A2.3 PARKES NATIONAL LOGISTICS HUB PROSPECTUS

The prospectus, released in 2017, introduces the vision for the National Logistics Hub and seeks enquiry and interest from investors. It outlines the case for the Inland Rail project, the role of the Hub as the sole connection for the Inland Rail to the east and west and provides testimonials from key stakeholders, industries and investors including Pacific National and Linfox.

The prospectus outlines key drivers for Parkes Logistics Hub, including:

- access to all major ports
- first centre from Sydney
- double stacked rail capacity
- road freight connections
- central location with 80% of Australian population in reach within 12 hours
- 600 hectares of low-cost industrial land available
- 45-minute connection to Sydney via three flights daily
- 24 hour operating capacity.

A2.4 MASTERPLANS

Parkes Shire Council have developed a series of masterplans, informed by community consultation, which set the direction for sustainable development of the Shire which best meets the community's long term needs.

A2.4.1 PARKES CBD VIBRANCY STRATEGY 2016

The vision for the Parks CBD Vibrancy Strategy is:

The Parkes CBD will be valued as a vibrant town centre with quality streets, footpaths and car parks servicing an attractive array of active street frontages, character buildings and places.

This strategy has been prepared to visualise the possibilities and opportunities for the CBD through a community driven urban renewal approach. The Strategy will require strong investment and support from building owners, shop owners, leasing agents, community groups and residents to be realised.

The aims of the Parkes CBD Vibrancy Strategy are to:

- promote localisation, sustainability, innovation and flexibility in the Parkes CBD
- celebrate the 'stories' of the evolution of the Parkes CBD
- protect and enhance existing heritage buildings and streetscape elements and character
- improve the quality of appearance of public spaces with new street furniture, lighting, gardens and tree planning, public art and opportunities for outdoor dining, fun and socialising
- provide new streetscape improvements to CBD approaches and streets lacking appeal/activity
- strengthen Cooke Park's role as a central park and link to retail centre
- develop Chamberlain Square into a larger pedestrian space and focal area and improve/expand the Civic Precinct
- develop strategies with property owners, real estate agents and shop proprietors to improve building appearance and create vibrant shop fronts
- encourage large format stores in the CBD to revitalise blank facades of buildings
- develop a more vibrant lighting scheme throughout the Parkes CBD to showcase the CBD at night, during the spring and summer months
- provide for all ages and stages of life.

From community consultation, a series of recommendations have been developed as part of this Strategy which focus on small wins, further designs, car parking and movement, activation, incentives and maintenance.

A2.4.2 PARKES PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING STRATEGY

The Parkes Shire Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy identifies a range of infrastructure improvements and social initiatives aimed at enhancing pedestrian and cycling opportunities. The Strategy is also aimed at encouraging residents to become active for their personal health, wellbeing and social interaction, raising awareness of the merits/benefits of a more active lifestyle. The vision for the Parkes Shire Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy is:

Parkes will be recognised as a bicycle and pedestrian friendly shire, with quality paths and facilities which provide safe, convenient and enjoyable active movement experiences.

The specific objectives of the Strategy are to:

- review the existing situation
- identify needs of all types of pedestrians and cyclists
- identify infrastructure improvements to deliver a connected network and achieve an appropriate level of pedestrian and cyclist access and priority
- prioritise improvements so they can be realistically implemented
- ensure prioritised improvements are employed in a consistent and appropriate manner
- ensure facilities are managed/maintained to high quality standards
- partner with government authorities, advocacy agencies and local communities to identify potential sources of funding to enhance/maintain active movement facilities.

A2.4.3 PARKES REGIONAL AIRPORT MASTERPLAN

The Parkes Regional Airport Masterplan provides a focussed framework for the development of the airport over the next 20 years and represents future facilities that will satisfy potential air traffic demand and economic growth opportunities. It also ensures compatibility with user needs and regulatory obligations including safety and security.

A2.4.4 HENRY PARKES CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Parkes Shire Council has prepared a Masterplan to guide the immediate, short term and long term development of the Henry Parkes Centre to ensure it continues to develop as a major tourism attraction for the region, attracting increased visitation and new visitor markets.

A2.4.5 PARKES AND RECREATIONAL PRECINCTS

Council is committed to providing quality leisure opportunities and is responsible for the maintenance and development of parks, gardens and reserves within Parkes Shire. Parks and Playgrounds Masterplans have been developed for Bushmans Hill, Armstrong Park and Adventure Playground.

A2.4.6 SKATE PARK MASTERPLANS

Council continues to manage, maintain and plan the development of skate parks throughout the Shire and have developed specific Masterplans for Parkes, Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore.

A2.4.7 SPORTING FACILITIES AND PRECINCTS

Parkes Shire has a strong sporting culture and Council is committed to future planning and development of sporting assets, developing Masterplans for Spicer Oval, Lindner Oval Reserve, Harrison Park, Cheney-McGlynn Park, Woodward Park, Berryman Oval Reserve and Pola Park.

A2.5 TOWNSHIP STRATEGIC PLANS

The key townships of Parkes LGA develop annual Community Strategic Plans that highlight priority projects and services. The projects and services in these Plans are funded through the following avenues:

- Parkes Shire Council funds as part of the Progressive Delivery Program
- town Improvement funds contributed by Parkes Shire Council and prioritised by localised Community Consultative Committees
- grant funding from State, Federal and philanthropic grants
- volunteering, sponsorships and fundraising from the local community.

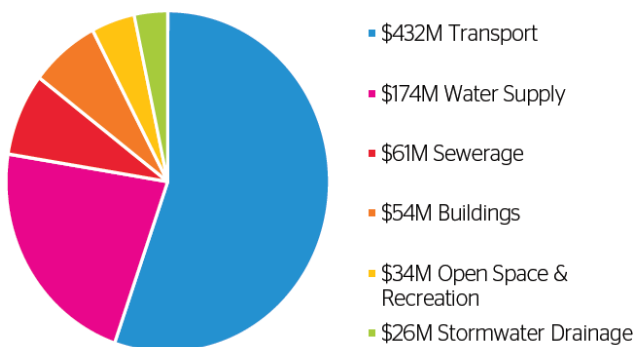
The top 10 priorities for each key township as outlined in the Plans for the 2017/18 period is provided in Table A.1 below.

Table A.1 Key priorities from Township Strategy Plans

	PRIORITIES
Bogan Gate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fuel stop for Bogan Gate – Provide support for new businesses – easier to open – Clean up untidy blocks in Bogan Gate – vacant blocks and private property – New shelter for Memorial Park – Broad weed control – especially khaki weed and galvanized burr – Free camping area for Bogan Gate (encourage people to stop and spend money) – Camping spots with power/water in Bogan Gate – Clinic nurse to visit Bogan Gate – Stop 10% of passing traffic to spend money in town – Public toilets – remove smell at the bus stop.
Trundle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Public toilet and rest area/park in the Main Street – Increased support for festivals in Trundle – Free camping area on the edge of town – Replace power at Trundle Showground and upgrade facilities – Fence to fence bitumen outside SES building – New lights at Berryman Oval – Widen and upgrade Bogan Gate Road – Upgrade the Trundle Memorial Hall – TAFE courses run in Trundle – Clean up car bodies and untidy blocks.
Tullamore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Replace footpath around Hall and install ramp (Carey Street Road to footpath) – Space for larger vehicles to park in town – Kerb and guttering – Provide a doctor's residence in Tullamore – Maintenance of vacant untidy blocks – Upgrade the wetland to create a recreational area for Tullamore – Upgrade Tullamore Town Hall – Recycling bins to be added to garbage pick up – Marked and painted school crossings in Tullamore – Encourage the sale of the old ANZ building.

	PRIORITIES
Peak Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Clean up and maintain the back section of AIF Hall — Clean up the Bogan Weir — Design and implementation of Peak Hill information signage including heritage and directional signage to attractions and services — Amenities for Lindner Oval (1st priority of Lindner Oval Masterplan) — Peak Hill shopping centre and highway entrances facelift — Improvements to cemetery (e.g. gravel) — Children’s playground equipment suitable for 0-5 years including pushbike area — Improve the street lighting in Peak Hill — Ongoing pigeon management — Cycleways/shared paths.

A2.6 STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017/18 – 2028/29



Council’s infrastructure – its roads, bridges, footpaths, water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage, buildings and recreational assets - have a replacement value of around \$805M. This Plan highlights the need for continued investment in asset renewal, noting 85% of Council’s budget over the next four years is devoted to operating, maintaining, renewing and building new assets as well as accounting for their depreciation.

Figure A.1 Breakdown of major asset value, Parkes Strategic Asset Management Plan

The plan identifies water, sewerage and building assets to be in greatest need of renewal/upgrade, with recreation and storm water assets currently performing well.

A2.7 OPEN SPACE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012

The Parkes Shire Council Open Space Asset Management Plan outlines the current level of service, future demand and management of the open space network, which includes:

- four pools
- sporting complexes
- parks
- reserves
- caravan park
- cemetery.

The projected outlay necessary to provide these services including operations, maintenance, renewal and upgrade of existing assets over the 10-year planning period is on average \$2.8M per year, which is higher than Council’s estimated available funding for these assets, creating a funding shortfall.

A2.8 DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN 2017/18 – 2020/21

Based on the principles outlined in the *NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014*, the Parkes Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) sets the framework and priorities to implement best practice in relation to access and inclusion for people with disability in the Parkes LGA.

The four focus areas for the Parkes DIAP are:

- 1 Attitudes and behaviours
- 2 Liveable communities
- 3 Systems and processes
- 4 Employment.

Parkes Shire Council has developed a series of actions for each focus area to achieve the following identified outcomes:

- 1 People with disability experience positive attitudes and respectful behaviour from Council staff and express the view that Council encourages these positive behaviours and attitudes within the broader community.
- 2 People with disability and their families and supporters have greater access to community places, buildings and events.
- 3 People with disability can more easily and efficiently access Council services and engage in the decision making of Council.
- 4 People with disability have greater access to employment opportunities with Council.

A2.9 CULTURAL SPACES PLAN FOR PARKES SHIRE 2014–2023

The Cultural Spaces Plan 2014–2023 provides a strategic framework for the delivery of cultural assets over the next the 10 years. The plan is inclusive and focused on Parkes Shire, including the communities of Parkes and surrounding towns and villages of Peak Hill, Tullamore, Bogan Gate and Trundle. The plan aligns with the Council’s vision for a vibrant healthy and learning community and includes recommendations to fund, develop and manage programs to animate existing and new cultural spaces in the shire.

The plan outlines the following short and long term recommendations to ensure cultural development in the Shire via the Council and Arts Out West support.

Table A.2 Short and long term recommendations per the Cultural Spaces Plan for Parkes Shire 2014–2023

SHORT TERM RECOMMENDATIONS	LONGER TERM RECOMMENDATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Permanent gallery in Parkes Library and Cultural Centre (focus on arts and education). — Portable stage and cinema screen for use throughout the shire. — Youth arts workshop in Parkes (adapt community centre in Cooke Park). — Wiradjuri community art mosaic in Peak Hill. — Aboriginal Arts Space in Peak Hill (adapt existing space). — Music Centre for Mitchell Conservatorium in Parkes (adapt existing space). — Concert Band Space in Parkes (improve access to existing space). — Trundle Memorial Hall (improve acoustics to enable broader use). — Bushmans Hill Reserve (implement masterplan, include Aboriginal public art). — Community artist in residence spaces in Trundle and Tullamore. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Parkes Community Art Space – Council to build an iconic new building in Cooke Park with galleries, workshop, contemporary public art, arts and crafts gift shop, café, amenities and outdoor stage). — Parkes Cultural Precinct – a precinct in the heart of Parkes defined by public art, gathering places, and walkways connecting the cluster of cultural spaces – Parkes Community Art Space, Cooke Park, the Library and Cultural Centre and Little Theatre – to the town square, café and retail strip in Clarinda Street. — Parkes Picture Palace adapted as space for music and dance (if feasible).

APPENDIX B

BASELINE REPORT



B1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

At the time of the 2016 Census, the population of the Parkes LGA was 14,608 persons residing in 6,737 dwellings and Forbes has 9,587 persons residing in 4,370 dwellings. Both LGA's had a significantly higher Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population than the NSW average of 2.9% (Parkes has 10.1% and Forbes has 11.1%).

Population growth across the Shire is expected to remain relatively static (between 0.1% and 0.2%) to reach a total population of 15,700 residents by 2036 (Department of Planning and Environment, Aug 2017).

At the time of the 2016 Census, 53.9% of the Parkes LGA and 53.9% of Forbes populations were at the same address as they were five years ago. 76.2% and 76.8% were at the same address as they were one year ago in Parkes and Forbes respectively.

B1.1 AGE PROFILE

The median age of residents within the wider study is older than the NSW and Australian median age of 3, being 41 and 42 in Parkes and Forbes respectively. The spread of age groups in Parkes and Forbes LGA's in comparison the NSW average is shown in the figure below. Parkes LGA has an older population, with each age group over 50 contributing to a higher percentage of the population than NSW averages.

Table B.1 Parkes LGA age profile

AGE GROUP	PARKES LGA (%)
Babies and pre-schoolers (0-4)	6.4
Primary schoolers (5-11)	9.9
Secondary schoolers (12-18)	8.1
Tertiary education/independence (18-24)	8.2
Young workforce (25-34)	10.5
Parents and homebuilders (35-49)	16.9
Older workers and pre-retirees (50-59)	13.6
Empty nesters and retirees (60-69)	12.1
Seniors (70-84)	11.2
Frail aged (85+)	3.0

Table B.2 Household type

	PARKES LGA (%)	FORBES LGA (%)	NSW (%)
Couple family without children	40.2	44.4	36.6
Couple family with children	39.7	37.1	45.7
One parent family	18.7	16.9	16.0
Other family	1.4	1.7	1.7

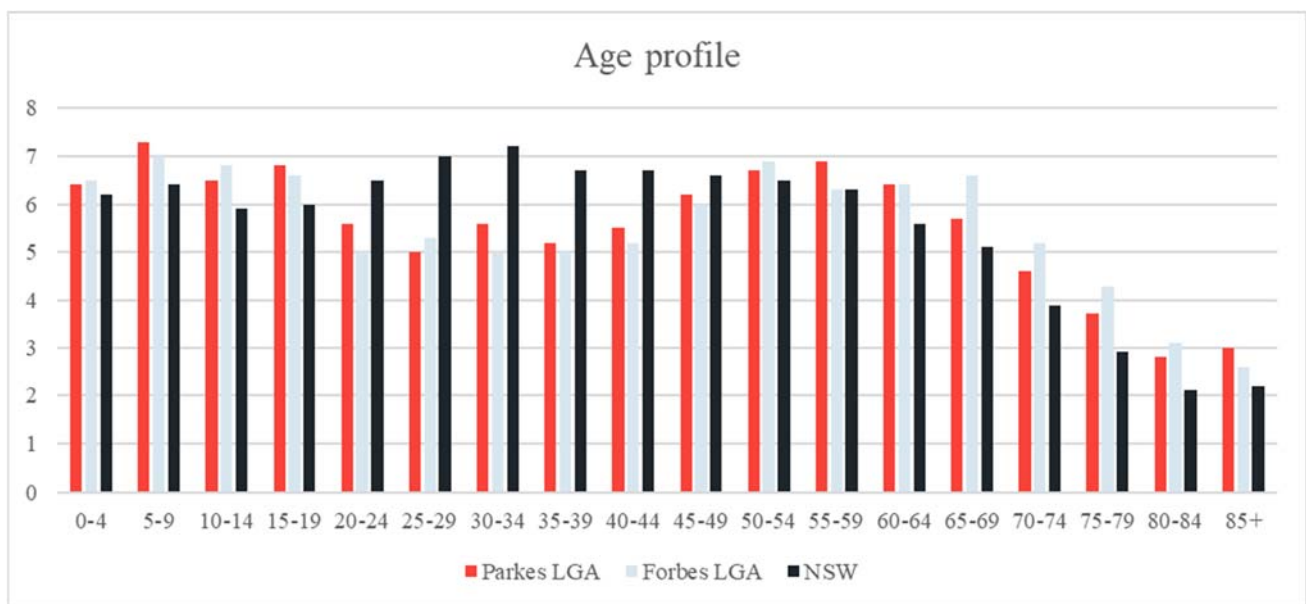


Figure B.1 Age profile

B1.2 FAMILIES AND HOUSING

The study area has a higher proportion of couple families without children and a smaller proportion of couple families with children than the NSW average.

For a three-bedroom Parkes Shire house in 2019, the median price is \$240,000 with an auction clearance rate of 23%. A three-bedroom house in Forbes LGA has a median price of \$248,000 and an auction clearance rate of 32%.

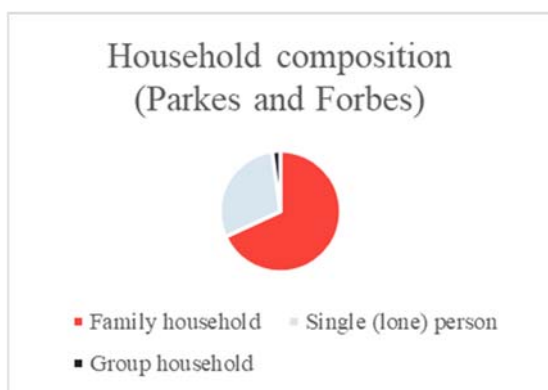


Figure B.2 Household composition

Table B.3 Housing type by LGA

	PARKES LGA (%)	FORBES LGA (%)
Separate house	90.1	90.5
Semi-detached, row or terrace house	2.7	3.4
Flat or apartment	5.5	4.0
Occupied dwellings	85.5	86.8
Unoccupied dwellings	14.5	12.2

Table B.4 Housing ownership by LGA

	PARKES LGA (%)	FORBES LGA (%)
Owned outright or with mortgage	66.4	68.0
Rented	29.0	27.8
Government housing	4.9	13.8

Mortgage and rental stress is defined as any household paying 30% of more of its imputable income on rent or mortgage repayments. 3.6% of households within Parkes are classified as experiencing mortgage stress whilst a proportionally higher number of households (8.8%) are experiencing rental stress. These figures are lower than the NSW averages.

B1.3 CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

The wider study area has a significantly higher proportion of the population who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander than the NSW average, with 10.1% and 11.1% in Parkes and Forbes respectively. Both LGA's have a high proportion of the population born in Australia, which is again reflected in the high proportion of households where only English is spoken. The wider study area has a significantly smaller percentage of households where a language other than English is spoken in comparison to NSW.

Table B.5 Cultural background and languages spoken

	PARKES LGA (%)	FORBES LGA (%)	NSW (%)
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	10.1	11.1	2.9
Born in Australia	84.5	85.8	65.5
English only spoken at home	88.5	89.0	68.5
Households where non-English language is spoken	3.8	3.0	26.5

The wider study area has relatively low cultural diversity. Of languages, other than English spoken in the wider study area, the most common languages were Afrikaans, Cantonese and Italian, though these are spoken by a relatively small number of the population (less than 1%). Across both Parkes and Forbes Council areas, England, New Zealand and Philippines were the most common countries of birth outside of Australia.

Table B.6 Cultural diversity

	PARKES LGA (%)	FORBES LGA (%)
Country of birth	England (1.2%) New Zealand (0.6%) Philippines (0.6%) China (0.3%) South Africa (0.3%)	England (1.0%) New Zealand (0.6%) Philippines (0.4%) India (0.2%) Italy (0.2%)
Language other than English	Afrikaans (0.2%) Mandarin (0.2%) Cantonese (0.2%) Tagalog (0.2%) Indonesian (0.2%)	Italian (0.3%) Wiradjuri (0.2%) Cantonese (0.1%) Malayalam (0.1%) Afrikaans (0.1%)

B1.4 EDUCATION

The wider study area has a small proportion of the population who have completed a Bachelor degree or above, less than the NSW average. Year 10 is the most common level of schooling completion in both Parkes at 18.3% and Forbes at 17.3%.

Table B.7 Level of highest educational attainment

	PARKES LGA (%)	FORBES LGA (%)	NSW (%)
Bachelor degree and above	9.4	9.9	23.4
Advanced diploma and diploma	6.2	6.7	8.9
Certificate IV	3.7	2.9	2.8
Certificate III	16.0	15.3	12.0
Year 12	10.8	11.4	15.3
Year 11	4.0	4.1	3.3
Year 10	18.3	17.3	11.5
Certificate II	0.1	0.1	0.1
Year 9 or below	12.9	13.9	8.4
No educational attainment	0.3	0.3	0.9
Not stated	15.4	15.2	10.3

B1.5 INCOME AND DISADVANTAGE

The ABS developed a range of indices showing relative levels of socioeconomic advantage and disadvantage, termed socioeconomic indicators for areas (SEIFA). They summarise key economic and social information about people and households within a defined area and are derived from Census variables.

- A low rank (i.e. decile scores 1 to 3) indicates an area of higher relative socioeconomic disadvantage.
- Higher rankings (i.e. decile scores 7 to 10) represent areas of least disadvantage.

As shown in Table B.8 below, the wider study area as at 2016 has a high level of relative socioeconomic disadvantage as indicated by a decile score of 3.

Table B.8 Relative socioeconomic disadvantage, ABS 2016

	DISADVANTAGE				
	SCORE	RANK WITHIN AUSTRALIA	DECILE	RANK WITHIN NSW	DECILE
Parkes LGA	940	142	3	31	3
Forbes LGA	952	523	3	148	3

For comparison, the national minimum wage in 2016 was set at A\$656.90 per week by the Fair Work Commission. There are 28.5% of households in Parkes and 26.5% of households in Forbes that earn less than \$650 per week in total, these are both higher than the NSW average at 19.7% of households.

6.5% of the Parkes Shire population and 5.5% of the Forbes Shire population needs assistance due to age or disability.

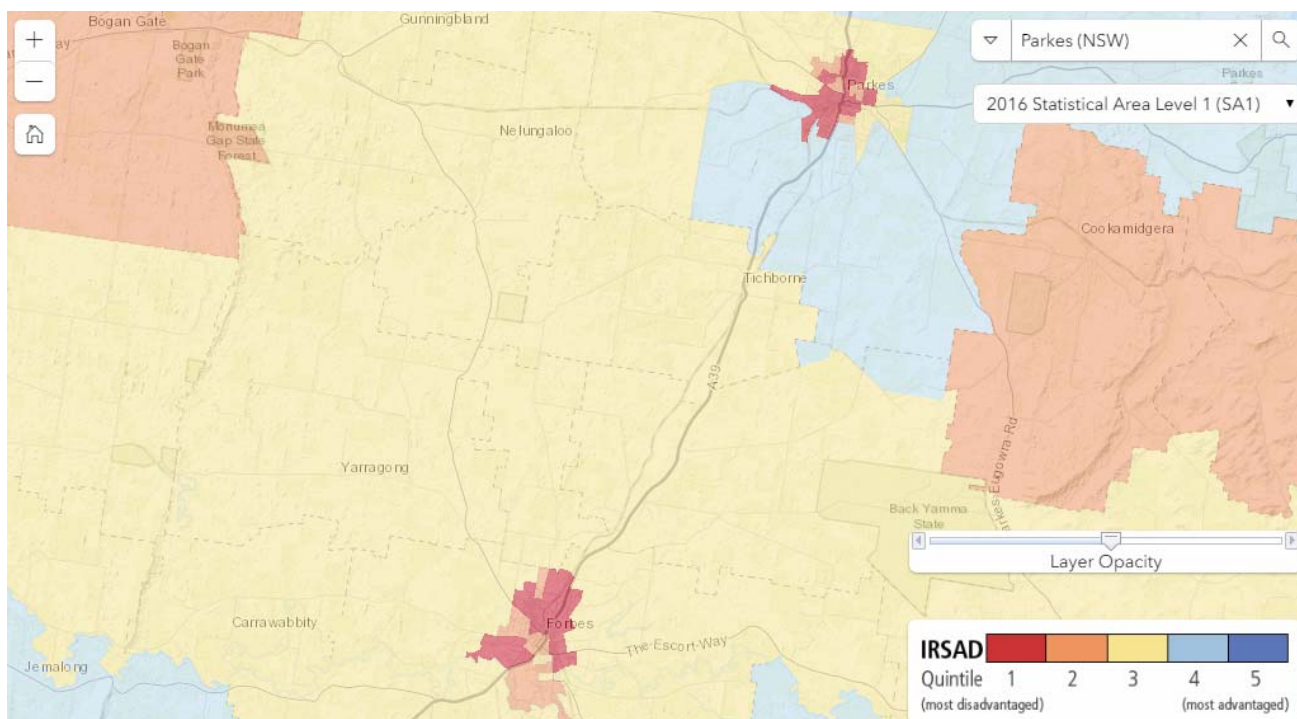


Figure B.3 Distribution of the Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) SEIFA scores

B1.6 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

In 2016, 24.3% of Parkes LGA and 25.1% of Forbes LGA reported participating in volunteer work. This is higher than the NSW average of 18.1% and the Australian average of 19%.

This suggests that residents of the wider study area are more likely to actively participate and be engaged in their local community.

B2 FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Now known as Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) compiled the following projections for population, households and dwellings in 2016:

Table B.9 DPE Population and household projections and implied dwelling requirements, 2016

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Parkes					
Total population	15,250	15,450	15,600	15,700	15,700
Total households	6,250	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,700
Average household size	2.40	2.37	2.34	2.32	2.29
Implied dwellings	7,050	7,200	7,350	7,450	7,550
Forbes					
Total population	9,400	9,300	9,100	8,850	8,550
Total households	3,900	3,850	3,800	3,750	3,650
Average household size	2.34	2.31	2.28	2.26	2.24
Implied dwellings	4,400	4,400	4,350	4,250	4,100

B3 ECONOMIC PROFILE

B3.1 LABOUR FORCE, INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

The wider study area average rate of labour force participation was 44.4% in 2016, while the average unemployment rate was 6.4%. Both LGAs have a lower median weekly household income and lower labour force participation than the NSW average.

Table B.10 Employment overview

	LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION (%)	UNEMPLOYMENT (%)	MEDIAN WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME
Parkes LGA	43.2	7.4	\$1,088
Forbes LGA	45.5	5.4	\$1,069
NSW	48.2	6.3	\$1,438

The most common occupations in Parkes LGA included:

- Managers 17.4%
- Technicians and Trades Workers 14.8%
- Professionals 14.6%
- Clerical and Administrative Workers 11.2%
- Community and Personal Service Workers 10.6%.

For Forbes LGA, the most common occupations included:

- Managers 19.2%
- Professionals 14.2%
- Technicians and Trades Workers 13.9%
- Labourers 12.9%
- Clerical and Administrative workers 10.1%.

B3.2 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIES

The top industry of employment in Parkes Shire in 2017/18 was health care and social assistance, generating 831 local jobs and accounting for 13% of the local labour force. Since 2012/13, an additional 142 jobs have been created in this industry, most likely to the Parkes Hospital development which was completed in 2015. Following health care and social assistance, the top industries for employment in the Parkes Shire are agriculture, forestry and fishing (12.2%), mining (10.2%) and retail trade (10%).

The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the largest number of total registered businesses in Parkes Shire, comprising 39.7% of all total registered businesses.

B3.2.1 AGRICULTURE

The agricultural sector in Parkes is primarily comprised of sheep grazing and the production of grain crops and employs over 700 people. Recent developments in sustainable farming techniques have positioned Parkes at the forefront of innovation in the sector. There are opportunities for smaller boutique processing and packaging operations to service specific markets such as bottling and stock feed.

In 2015/16, the total value of agricultural output in Parkes Shire was \$170M. The largest commodity produced was cereal crops, which accounted for 51.3% of Parkes Shire's total agricultural output in value terms.

Table B.11 Agricultural GRP contributions (2015/16)

COMMODITY	2015/16 \$ VALUES	% OF TOTAL	PARKES SHIRE AS % OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Cereal Crops	87,380,173	51.3	2.9
Broadacre Crops	24,187,843	14.2	1.2
Crops for hay	4,228,530	2.5	1.3
Vegetables	1,574,869	0.9	0.4
Wool	21,241,547	12.5	2.2
Milk	2,367,426	1.4	0.4
Eggs	7,681	0.0	0.0
Livestock slaughters	29,352,083	17.2	0.7
Agriculture – total value	170,340,152	100	1.3

B3.2.2 TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

Overall the Parkes tourism industry generates more than \$58 million to the Parkes economy. This sector employs 366 people in the Parkes Shire. There are a range of tourist attractions that bring in visitors throughout the year, including:

- The CSIRO Parkes Radio Telescope (The Dish)
- Henry Parkes Centre
- Parkes Elvis Festival
- Peak Hill Open Cut experience
- Trundle ABBA Festival and bush tucker day
- Tullamore Irish Festival.

There are approximately 1500 bed spaces across a range of motels, hotels, B&Bs, serviced accommodation, cabin and caravan parks in Parkes. A further 300 bed spaces in pubs, motels and caravan parks in Peak Hill, Bogan Gate, Trundle and Tullamore.

B3.2.3 MINING

Mining represents one of the major cornerstones of the Parkes economy. Northparkes Mines is a joint venture between China Molybdenum Co. Ltd (CMOC) (80%) and the Sumitomo Groups (20%) located 27 kilometres north-west of Parkes. Northparkes Mines is a world leader in innovative block caving techniques and has used this to access the considerable copper and gold reserves.

Northparkes Mines has recently secured approval from the NSW and Federal Governments for the Mine Life Extension project, which extends Northparkes Mines operations until 2032, an additional seven years. Construction is complete on a new tailings storage facility which will provide additional infrastructure for production.

In June 2018, a Definitive Feasibility Study (DFS) was completed for Clean TeQ Sunrise project, noting its global importance as a sustainable, long-life, low-cost source of high purity cobalt and nickel sulphates for the battery revolution. The Syerston deposit is situated in Central NSW, just outside of Fifield, and is well supported by Parkes, Dubbo and Condobolin which are all located within 100km of the project area. Approximately 300 personnel will be employed as the operational workforce, with a Regional Operations Centre in Parkes currently under consideration.

Per the NSW Mineral Council, mining direct spending in the Central West is \$858 million and in the Parkes Shire it is approximately \$80 million. Northparkes currently employs almost 300 staff on site, as well as additional contract staff. For more information please visit the Northparkes Mines website.

Apart from Northparkes there are several other operational mines within approximately 100 km including Cadia and Cowal Gold mine and the new \$116 million Tomingley Gold Project. There are also approximately 15 exploration projects located within 100 km of Parkes.

Many mining supply companies are also looking to relocate to Parkes as it is a hub for distribution for mining supplies throughout NSW, the central west and nationally.

B3.2.4 RETAIL

The retail sector in Parkes employs nearly 600 people, which is approximately 10% of the workforce and contributes to \$30 million to the economy annually. Speciality retail and homewares stores and major retailers including Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Target, Big W, Furniture One and Harvey Norman complete the community's shopping needs.

B3.2.5 PUBLIC SECTOR

Parkes has a strong public sector. The Roads and Maritime Service Western Region Head office is in Parkes employing approximately 150 people, along with newly developed buildings for Centrelink and Department of Children Services. Parkes has a new \$13 million Police Station and work has recently been completed on a new state-of-the-art \$72.8 million hospital.

Education and training, health care and public administration contribute approximately \$110 million to the GRP and employ about 20% of the work force.

B4 EXISTING COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Parkes is the largest town, service centre and as council seat of Parkes Shire contains the majority council-operated social and recreational infrastructure for the Shire. This section maps the existing community and social infrastructure that services Parkes and its wider economic region, which includes the towns of Bogan Gate, Trundle, Tullamore and Peak Hill.

B4.1 EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Across Parkes and the wider economic region, there are six early education/childcare facilities, 14 primary and combined schools, two high schools and two regional branches of TAFE. There are also two after school care services in Parkes, at PCYC KidzCare and Parkes Outside School Hours Care.

Table B.12 Education and child care facilities

	TOWN	CAPACITY/ENROLMENT (APPROX)
LiveBetter Parkes Middleton Preschool	Parkes	Not specified
Parkes Early Childhood Centre (0-5yrs)	Parkes	86
Victoria street children's centre (0-6yrs)	Parkes	75
Community kids Parkes (0-5yrs)	Parkes	70
Central west family day care (0-12yrs)	Parkes	400
Parkes Public School (K-6)	Parkes	418
Parkes East Public School (K-6)	Parkes	295
Middleton Public School (K-6)	Parkes	268
Holy Family Primary School (K-6)	Parkes	246
Parkes Christian School (K-12)	Parkes	200
Parkes High School (7-12)	Parkes	600
Parkes TAFE	Parkes	Training specialties include aged care, business, computing, children's services, foundation skills, hospitality, library information services, community services and welding.
Bogan Gate Public School	Bogan Gate	12
St Patricks Primary School (K-6)	Trundle	22
Trundle Central School (K-12)	Trundle	125
LiveBetter Tullamore Preschool	Tullamore	20
Tullamore Central School (K-12)	Tullamore	85
Peak Hill Pre-School	Peak Hill	19
St Joseph's primary school (K-6)	Peak Hill	22
Peak Hill central school (K-12)	Peak Hill	136

	TOWN	CAPACITY/ENROLMENT (APPROX)
Goodstart early learning Forbes (0-6yrs)	Forbes	90
St Laurence's parish school (K-6)	Forbes	323
Forbes north public school (K-6)	Forbes	283
Forbes Public School (K-6)	Forbes	291
Red bend catholic college (7-12)	Forbes	740 students and offers 150 boarding places
Forbes high school (7-12)	Forbes	378
Forbes TAFE	Forbes	Offers a range of practical courses in vocational access and general education, together with trade programs such as courses in carpentry and joinery, along with a range of primary industries and natural resources options. The college also specialises in aged care, business, computing, hairdressing, retail and welding programs

B4.2 HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL FACILITIES

The completion of the new Parkes Hospital in 2015 provided a new base from which to provide regional emergency and public health care. In addition to this, there are several medical and health centres across the Shire.

Table B.13 Hospital and medical facilities

	TOWN	SERVICES/CAPACITY
Parkes hospital	Parkes	< 50 beds. Emergency department, obstetric services, oncology unit, cardiology, gastroenterology, general medicine, general surgery, respiratory.
Ochre Health Medical Centre	Parkes	General Practice, minor surgeries, sports injuries, obstetric services, WorkCover, diabetes educator, pre-anaesthetic checks, pre-employment medicals, counselling & mental health, immunisations, vaccinations, BP and INR monitoring, ECG's, health assessments, diabetes management. Onsight & allied services – psychologist, hearing specialist, gynaecologist, pain specialist, optometrist, sleep specialist.
Parkes General practice	Parkes	Acute and chronic disease management, indigenous health care, family medicine (women, men, child and aged health), Antenatal (prenatal) care, medication reviews, occupational health, pre-employment medicals, health assessments, medical procedures and minor surgery, travel medicine, wellness medicine, telehealth, sleep medicine/sleep studies, podiatry, psychology, pathology. Visiting specialists – skin specialist, general surgeon.
Currajong Medical centre	Parkes	General Practice.
Trundle Medical Centres	Trundle	General Practice, generalist counselling.

	TOWN	SERVICES/CAPACITY
Tullamore Multi purpose Health Service	Tullamore	< 50 beds. Emergency department, nursing home care unit, gastroenterology, general medicine, neurology, ophthalmology.
Peak Hill Hospital	Peak Hill	< 50 beds. Emergency department, nursing home care unit, pharmacotherapy (methadone) program.
Peak Hill Aboriginal medical service	Peak Hill	General Practice, Aboriginal health clinic, optometry, diabetes educator, dietician service, exercise physiology, podiatry service.
Peak Hill Medical Centre	Peak Hill	General Practice, diabetes educator.
Forbes district hospital	Forbes	< 50 beds. Emergency department, obstetrics, oncology unit, renal dialysis unit.
Forbes Medical Centre	Forbes	General Practice, children and adolescents, women's health, sexual and reproductive health, procedural obstetrics, specialist palliative medicine, indigenous health, men's health, Point of Care testing, chronic disease and pain management, preventative healthcare, immunisation, nursing home visits, minor surgery, regular skin checks.
Yoorana gunya family healing centre	Forbes	General Practice, Aboriginal health clinic, immunizations, home visits, psychologist, general practice nurse, access to allied health (optometry, audiometry, sexual health, podiatry, dietetics), family support and parenting programs, counselling service.

B4.3 PLACES OF WORSHIP

In the 2016 Census, 81% of the Parkes LGA identified as Christian, this high percentage reflected in the high number (17) of places of worship located in the Shire.

Table B.14 Places of worship

	ADDRESS	TOWN
Holy Family Catholic Church	29 Currajong Street	Parkes
St Georges Church Parkes	12 Hill Street	Parkes
Parkes Community Church	243 Back Trundle Road	Parkes
Generocity Church	Bogan Street	Parkes
Parkes Assembly of God Church	7 Rees Avenue	Parkes
St Pauls Lutheran Church	96 Currajong Street	Parkes
Parkes Uniting Church	17 Thomas Street	Parkes
St Georges Anglican Church	Cnr Hill Street and Church Street	Parkes
Parkes Seventh Day Adventist Church	26 Bushman Street	Parkes
Parkes Baptist Church	Cnr Church Street and Currajong Street	Parkes

	ADDRESS	TOWN
Parkes Presbyterian Church	Cnr Gap Street and Hill Street	Parkes
All Saints Catholic Church	Bogan Street	Bogan Gate
Trundle Presbyterian Church	33 Gobondery Street	Trundle
St Michaels Catholic Church	3 Croft Street	Trundle
St Marys Catholic Church	1 Cardigan Street	Tullamore
St James Catholic Church	153 Caswell Street	Peak Hill
Generocity Church	Cnr Rankin Street and Riley Street	Forbes
Forbes Baptist church	7 Attlee Street	Forbes
St Laurence's Catholic church	13 Johnson Street	Forbes
Saint John's Anglican Church	1 Court Street	Forbes
Saint Andrews Presbyterian church	11 Harold Street	Forbes
St john's Lutheran church	155 Rankin Street	Forbes

B4.4 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Across Parkes LGA, there are three police stations, two fire stations and an ambulance service.

Table B.15 Emergency services

	ADDRESS	TOWN
Parkes Police Station	3 Court Street	Parkes
Parkes Fire and rescue	1 Court Street	Parkes
Parkes Ambulance Service	19 Bushman Street	Parkes
Trundle Police Station	4 Croft Street	Trundle
Tullamore Police Station	15 Haylock Street	Tullamore
Peak Hill Fire Station	130 Caswell Street	Peak Hill
NSW state emergency services – Lachlan region		Parkes, Peak Hill and Trundle

B4.5 AGED CARE

As outlined in section 2.3.1, the median age of Parkes Shire LGA is 41, older than the NSW average of 38, with each age group over 50 contributing to a higher percentage of the population than NSW averages. To accommodate this older population, there is a range of aged care services (detailed in section 2.5.6.1) and retirement living, home care and residential aged care facilities available in the LGA. These include:

- Southern Cross Care and Apartments, Parkes
- Rosedurnate Aged Care Plus Centre and Retirement Village, Parkes
- BaptistCare Niola Centre
- Frazer Court Hostel, Peak Hill.

Aged care services are also offered at Parkes and Peak Hill hospitals and Multipurpose Health Services in Trundle and Tullamore.

B4.6 CEMETERIES

Parkes Shire Council manages and maintains cemeteries the LGA in Parkes, Peak Hill and Trundle Tullamore and Alectown. There is also a cemetery at Bogan Gate which is managed by a Trust.

Parkes Shire Cemeteries are denominational but include non-denominational sections along with memorial gardens and niche walls for cremated remains and plaques.

Council is responsible for all interments, reservations, and liaison with funeral directors, record keeping, genealogy enquiries, ongoing maintenance and asset improvement. Council acts as the cemetery authority in accordance with all legislative requirements relating to these cemeteries.

B4.7 COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

B4.7.1 NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRAL

Neighbourhood Central has been operative since 1977 and is an integral part of the Parkes community. It is a community based centre which members use for friendship, action, community issues, exchange of information and mutual support. There are a range of services available through Neighbourhood Central, which are detailed on their website (<http://www.ncentral.org.au/>) and in the table below:

Table B.16 Community support services offered by Neighbourhood Central (not exhaustive)

	DESCRIPTION
Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Project	Targeting Aboriginal Youth and their families, parents and/or carers. Forms partnerships and network services targeting organisations and community capacity building services for the clientele in the Peak Hill community.
Aboriginal Project Officer	Sources information and makes referrals for Indigenous Australians living in the community to services that are appropriate to them.
Aboriginal Youth Program	Targets Indigenous high school students from Parkes and Peak Hill to make a positive impact on school attendance by identifying barriers that may be holding students back from learning.
Broadband for Seniors	Helps senior Australians get the skills they need to use computers and access the internet.
Community Visitors Expansion Scheme	Provides volunteers who visit residents in aged care facilities a group style scenario. Volunteers also visit people living in their homes who are in receipt of a home care package.
Community Visitors Scheme	A one-on-one visiting service provided by volunteers for residents in aged care facilities, building strong friendships with the elderly residents who have little or no family contact.
Community Transport	Community Transport is for the frail aged and disabled, people with severe or profound disabilities and their carers. The service is also available to people who are disadvantaged by health, physical, social, geographical or financial circumstances within Parkes, Forbes and Lachlan Local Government Areas.
Disability Recreation Respite Options	Access to recreation respite provided to families with a child/young person aged between 9 and 18 years with a disability.

	DESCRIPTION
Family Support Service	Offers practical assistance and emotional support to families, youth and children in Parkes, Forbes, Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore. This includes weekly playgroups and youth groups as well as a variety of structured courses offered throughout the year, all confidential and free of charge.
Home Modification & Maintenance Service	Specialises in home modification in consultation with an Occupational Therapist. A lower maintenance service is also available for small safety jobs around the home.
Meal Services	Frail aged clients are provided with subsidised meals when participating in community groups and social trips.
Social Support	Assists in maintaining frail aged or younger people with disabilities to continue to live in their own homes by offering social support services, including shopping, banking, account paying, appointments and social outings.
Housebound Library	Volunteers deliver books, CDs and DVDs to clients living in private homes and residential aged care facilities.
No Interest Loan Scheme	Providing interest-free loans for eligible people to purchase white goods, car registration or furniture.
Parkes Palliative Care Volunteer Service	Specially trained volunteers work alongside health professionals to provide companionships, emotional support and practical help to clients in their home.
Tax Help	Network of community volunteers who provide a free and confidential service to help people complete their tax returns on time.
Volunteer Referral Service	Recruiting and referring volunteers for services at Neighbourhood Central and other organisations in Parkes and Forbes.

B4.7.2 BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Benevolent Society is a not-for-profit and non-religious charity which supports people with disabilities, children, families, older Australians and carers. Services include:

- Home support services for older Australians to enable them to remain in their home and live their best life
- Therapy and support services for people with a disability
- Support to build positive family relationships
- Child development and behaviour support
- Mental health.

B4.7.3 LIVEBETTER

LiveBetter Community Services is an organisation formed through the amalgamation of several like-minded, regionally based community service organisations that recognise the need for specialist service provision for the people of regional Australia. They deliver a range of aged, disability, carer, child and family, mental health and clinic services.

B4.8 DISABILITY SERVICES

There are several organisations in the Parkes LGA that provide services to and advocate for people living with a disability, detailed in the table below.

Table B.17 Disability services

	DESCRIPTION
Currajong Disability Services	<p>Currajong Disability Services Inc. is a local community based, non-profit organisation managed by a voluntary committee. State funding is received from the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care (DADHC) and programs delivered must meet the Disability and HACC Service Standards.</p> <p>Currajong Disability Services has grown substantially and now auspices four different programs. These are the Post School Programs, Community Access Day Program, Flexible Respite Service and Supported Accommodation as well as a wheelchair accessible bus.</p> <p>Currajong Disabilities is supported by Parkes Shire Council through funding support for building occupancy and maintenance.</p>
Parkes Aged and Disables Support Scheme	<p>Home and Community Care organisation offering social support to frail aged and young disabled and their carers. Services include shopping, banking, account paying, social visitation, referral and advocacy. This is a free service for eligible clients. The service is funded by the Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.</p>
Parkes/Lachlan Home Modification and Maintenance Service	<p>Parkes/Lachlan Home Modification and Maintenance Service is funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments through the Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care's HACC program. The service provides Home Modification and maintenance services to frail aged people and younger people with disabilities and their carers.</p> <p>The aim of the service is to assist people to remain in their own homes rather than having to move into a nursing home or hostel accommodation.</p>
Verto	<p>The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program uses an Australia-wide network of 31 Officers to provide information, coordination and referral services for people with a disability who are looking for (or are enrolled in) post-school education and training. National Disability Coordination Officers build links between the education, training and employment sectors so that people with a disability have assistance at all levels.</p>

B4.9 OPEN SPACE

Parkes Shire Council manages approximately 50 separate parks, reserves and ovals which provide for activities such as walking, bike riding, picnics and barbecues, playgrounds and organised sport. The most popular parks include:

- Lions Park
- Kelly Reserve
- Cooke Park
- Memorial Hill
- Boulder Hill
- Bushmans Hill.

B4.10 COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTRES

Cultural and recreational infrastructure can build community cohesion by providing a place for residents to gather. Community centres also provide a place for local services to be accessed. The following social and recreational infrastructure can be found in Parkes:

- Neighbourhood Central offers a central point of delivery for council led community services such as aboriginal, disability, aged and home care services.
- The Henry Parkes Centre is a multipurpose tourist and cultural hub in downtown Parkes. The centre is home to many museums and cultural spaces that host social events throughout the year.
- The Little Theatre is a Council owned arts and theatre space operated by a not for profit community group. The theatre hosts many community led productions during the year and offers a meeting and activities space for community use.
- Parkes Shire library consists of a central library in Parkes and three branches in Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore.
- The Wiradjuri Amphitheatre this newly built amphitheatre facility is located at the southern side of Bushman's Hill and features indigenous artwork created by local Wiradjuri artists.
- The Parkes Community Centre located in Rose Street. Parkes Shire Council is calling for Expressions of Interest for the use of this newly refurbished Community Centre.
- The current Community Centre in Cooke park is scheduled for demolition to make way for a new Multipurpose Centre. A construction application (CC2019/0021) was submitted by Parkes Shire Council on 12 March 2019 for the construction of the community multi-purpose centre.

B4.11 SPORTING AND RECREATION

- The Parkes Aquatic Centre offers aquatic facilities for both recreational swimming and special children's and disability access pools. Council also operates and maintains swimming pools in Peak Hill, Trundle and Tullamore.
- The region boasts three skate parks designed especially for skateboarding and BMX riding in Parkes, Tullamore and Peak Hill.
- The town has several regional level sporting facilities located across the town. These include the Northparkes oval that has athletics and track and field facilities. International standard hockey facilities at Cheney Park and a hard-court netball complex at McGlynn Park. There are also multiple large reserves with dedicated Rugby, AFL, Cricket and AFL facilities.
- The Parkes Show Ground is in the north west of the town and plays host to many events and activities during the year. The Parkes Show held in August offers an opportunity for regional level community gathering and celebration.
- The Parkes Golf Club, operates an 18-hole championship Golf Course and Licensed Club house in the west of the town. The Golf Club provides a place for recreation, gathering, social interaction and health and wellbeing. The Golf Club hosts annual regional championship competitions and includes a waste water system to ensure that that course is fully watered throughout the year and that grass greens can be maintained.

B4.12 WASTE AND RECYCLING

Parkes LGA is serviced by eight waste depots in Alectown, Bogan Gate, Gunningbland, Trundle and Tullamore. Waste is a growing issue and cost for Parkes Shire Council. Parkes main waste disposal facility has been progressively adapted to focus on recycling and resource recovery rather than just waste disposal. Parkes Waste Facility has recently undergone major upgrades to deliver improved customer services and sustainable outcomes comparable to larger waste facilities in terms of operating efficiency, safety and environmental performance.

Parkes Shire Council also provides the community with a two-component recycling service. Recyclables are currently transported to Orange, and then onto Sydney for processing. Mixed recyclables are segregated into various categories and then sold to reprocessing companies.

B4.13 PLACES OF COMMUNITY SIGNIFICANCE

Places of community significance are geographically specific places that a number of people have a common or shared attachment to. These places contribute to a sense of identity and contribute to the broader social relationships that exist within communities. Parkes has a number of places of community significance that contribute to the town's local identity:

- **The Dish:** The CSIRO Parkes Observatory, located 20 km north of Parkes was the first fully steerable large antenna in the southern hemisphere when it was built in 1961. It is famous for being one of the receiving transmitters for the televised images of the 1969 moon landing. It is a major tourist drawcard for Parkes and as such is a major economic contributor to the local economy. It is perhaps the town's most identifiable site, even forming the local government logo.
- **Northparkes Mine:** CMOC-Northparkes Mines (Northparkes) is a copper and gold mine located 27 kilometres north-west of Parkes. Mining has been taking place at Northparkes for over twenty years, however the operation is important in that it also owns and operates over 8000 hectares of agricultural land in the area. Northparkes is a significant employer for Parkes, employing 271 residents in the town, with associated wages contributing millions of dollars to the local economy and providing stability for a substantial proportion of the local labour market and residential population.
- **National Logistics Hub:** The National Logistics Hub at Parkes sits at the intersection of the Sydney-Adelaide rail line between Broken Hill and the Newell Highway, which connects to Melbourne and Brisbane. It is located to take advantage of the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail and is the only intermodal hub in NSW that facilitates double stacking of containers to Perth. This makes the Hub a key employment and industry opportunity for the Shire.
- **The Newell Highway (A39):** The Newell Highway is a major transport and logistics route linking Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland that travels directly through the centre of Parkes. As well as providing a source of revenue to the town from through traffic, the highway also provides important community linkages to other towns in the region such as Dubbo and Forbes and linkages between regional communities and services.

APPENDIX C

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION QUESTIONS



C1 STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONS

The below questions, grouped by theme, guided the interviews held as part of the stakeholder consultation for this CSIA. These meetings were conversational in nature, with stakeholder only being asked the questions that were most relevant to them.

STATUS OF EXISTING SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- What services or facilities do you provide and/or manage and where are they located?
- Who are your customers and key stakeholders and where do they come from (local or regional)?
- How many staff are part of your organisation (local area only)?
- Would you describe your service/facility at capacity? Below capacity? Over capacity?
- What factors are contributing to this status?
- How do you determine the current levels of service and how do you determine an expansion or contraction of services?
- What plans (if any) do you have for your service or facility provision (immediate, short term, long term)? What key priority projects or initiatives are you taking part in?
- What services or businesses are you linked/provide support to and who do you rely on?

ASPIRATIONS AND VISION

- What are the current challenges for the community of Parkes and surrounding areas? Also, think about the future.
- What are the opportunities in and surrounding Parkes from a community perspective?
- What would help these opportunities to grow and how can the issues be managed better?
- What opportunities are there for collaboration between different groups with complementary service offerings?

POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

- How would Parkes cope with an increased population with its current service, education and employment options?
- What kind of jobs and businesses would you like to see created in Parkes?
- Would new educational institutions encourage further participation?
- What would encourage more people to live and work in Parkes?

SERVICES AND FACILITIES (NOW AND PREDICTED)

- If jobs increased by 100, 500 or 1,000, considering some jobs would be created for local people and some would be created for new people and their families, what would the impact be on the services/facilities you provide?
- What additional services would be needed?

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

- How do people from Parkes talk about their community?
- What are the local people of Parkes proud of/what is valued?
- Has the community changed in the last five years and in what way?
- What helps the community bounce back after times?

ABOUT US

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