



YOUR VISION.
YOUR FUTURE.

Hornsby Local Strategic Planning Statement

March 2020

An aerial photograph of the Hornsby Shire area, showing a mix of urban development, residential housing, and green spaces. A dark teal silhouette of the Hornsby Shire map is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text "LET'S SHAPE THE HORNSBY OF TOMORROW." is written in white, sans-serif capital letters across the map overlay.

LET'S SHAPE
THE HORNSBY
OF TOMORROW.

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About the Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Hornsby Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets out a 20-year vision for land use; the special character and values that are to be preserved; shared community values; and how Hornsby Shire Council will manage growth and change.

The LSPS is a new legislative requirement to provide the link between the State Government's strategic plans and Council's local land use plans and guidelines. The LSPS forms part of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, providing an important link with our Community Strategic Plan 'Your Vision Your Future 2018'. (Refer to Figure 1)

The Hornsby LSPS details the local response to the objectives and priorities of the North District Plan and Greater Sydney Region Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities. Strategic alignment is demonstrated in the Action Tables at the end of each chapter.

The Hornsby LSPS also aligns with Future Transport 2056, NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038, State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) and Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions. Where inconsistencies exist, or local strategic work is further progressed, the Hornsby LSPS identifies points of collaboration with relevant State agencies to resolve outstanding matters.

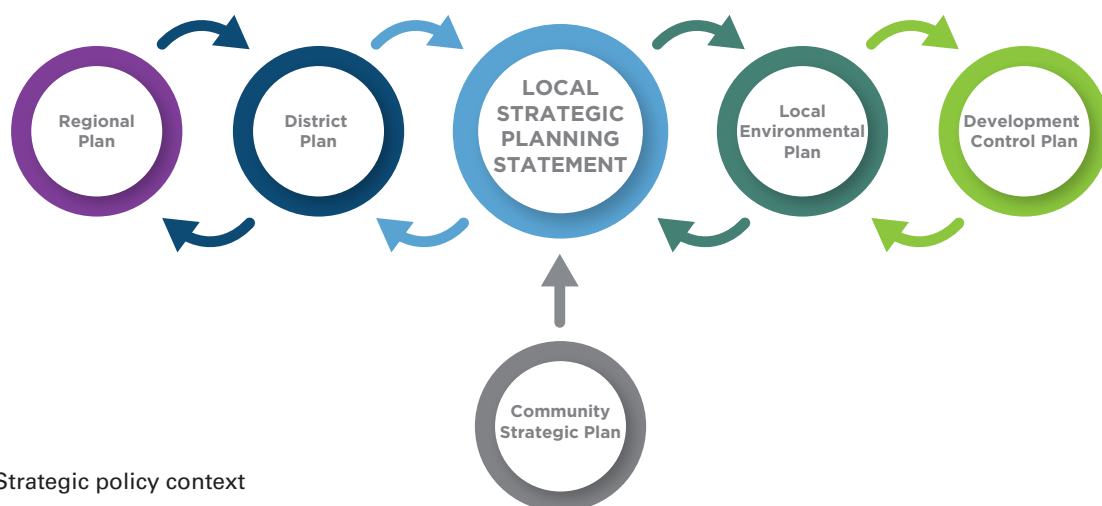


Figure 1 – Strategic policy context

The LSPS provides an understanding of the current planning context for Hornsby Shire under the themes of Liveable, Sustainable, Productive and Collaborative. It examines how expected changes in our population over the next 20 years will influence how we provide for our community. The planning priorities identified within the LSPS will help guide land use decisions and earmark changes to our local land use plans, strategies and policies over the next 20 years. Some of the key focus areas that the LSPS will address include:

- Places that may change in the future;
- Areas of special character and importance to the community;
- Planning priorities for Hornsby Shire;
- Issues of particular value and how they will be addressed in Council's land use plans.

The LSPS will be updated on a regular basis to accurately reflect changes in Council policies that have land use implications.

What are State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs)?

SEPPs cover social, economic and environmental matters of State significance and may impact on local planning within Hornsby.

What are Section 9.1 Directions?

Ministerial Directions are made under Section 9.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and include matters that need to be considered for local plan making. For example, employment, environment and heritage, housing, infrastructure and urban development. The Directions provide principles, aims, objectives or policies that must be achieved or given effect to in the preparation of Local Environmental Plans.

How to use the Local Strategic Planning Statement

The LSPS is structured to align with the key themes of the Greater Sydney Commission's *North District Plan* and the Hornsby Community Strategic Plan, *Your Vision Your Future 2018-2028*.

The LSPS provides a high-level understanding of the key issues, community priorities and current policy position on land use planning matters under the themes of **Liveable, Sustainable, Productive** and **Collaborative**. Each chapter includes a summary of the current context, followed by corresponding priorities and actions.

An outline of the chapters and the information included within each is summarised below:

Chapter	Structure and Information	Reference
1. About the LSPS	Describes the purpose, structure and content of the LSPS.	Page 4
2. Hornsby Now	Summary of Hornsby's history with regard to original inhabitants, heritage and settlement and an understanding of our people, place, environment and economy today.	Page 8
3. Future Hornsby	Summary of Hornsby's expected total population growth and demographic changes over the next 20-years.	Page 16
4. Our Vision	Our current Community Strategic Plan value statement, key strategic planning priorities and actions.	Page 19
5. Our Key Priorities and Actions	A summary of the key strategic planning priorities and actions for the short term.	Page 21
6. Liveable	The current context, key community values and vision relating to the liveability of Hornsby.	Page 25
	Priorities and Actions Our liveable priorities and actions for the immediate, short and medium term.	Page 36
7. Sustainable	The current context, key community values and vision relating to the environmental sustainability of Hornsby.	Page 38
	Priorities and Actions Our sustainable priorities and actions for the immediate, short and medium term.	Page 70
8. Productive	The current context, key community values and vision relating to the productivity of Hornsby.	Page 72
	Priorities and Actions Our productive priorities and actions for the immediate, short and medium term.	Page 86
9. Collaborative	The key points of collaboration with our community, key stakeholders and State and Local Government on current and future projects and ongoing strategic planning work.	Page 87
	Priorities and Actions Our collaborative priorities and actions for the immediate, short and medium term	Page 92
10. Implementation	The program for delivery and completion of our identified Liveable, Sustainable, Productive and Collaborative priorities and actions.	Page 93



Accelerated Local Environmental Plan Review

Hornsby Council has committed to an ambitious and comprehensive review of a number of technical studies under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Accelerated Local Environmental Plan Review program (Accelerated LEP Review). Council has entered into a funding agreement with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, which provides \$2.5m towards the following projects:

1. Environmental Sustainability Strategy

- 1.1. Urban Forest Strategy
- 1.2. Water Sensitive Hornsby
- 1.3. Biodiversity Management Plan update
- 1.4. Urban Heat mapping
- 1.5. Climate Change Adaptation

2. Comprehensive Heritage Study

- 2.1. Heritage Action Plan

3. Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan update

4. Hornsby Town Centre Review

5. Local Housing Strategy

6. Active Living Strategy

- 6.1. Play Plan
- 6.2. Walking and Cycling Strategy

7. Rural Lands Study

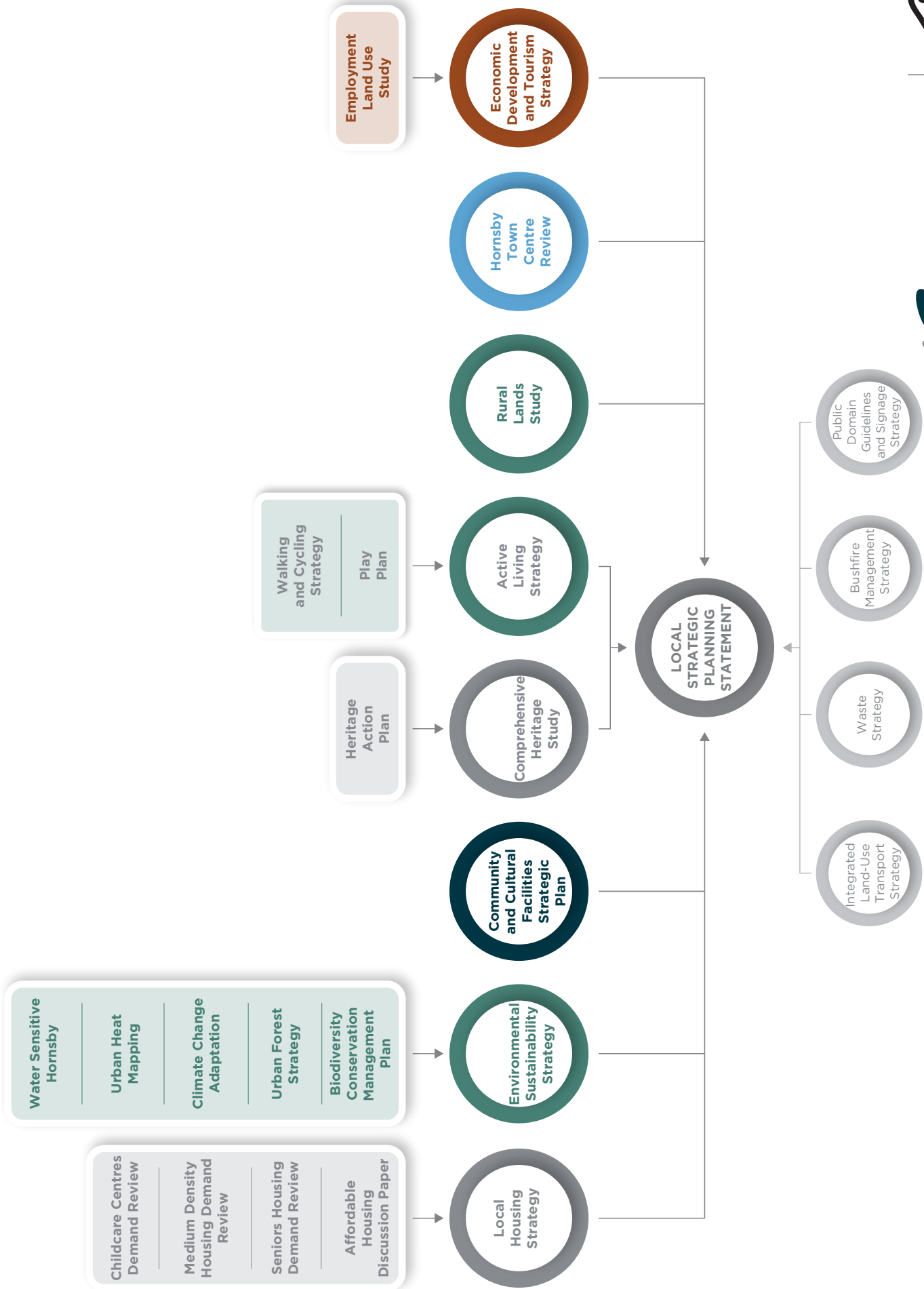
8. Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

- 8.1. Employment Land Use Study (Refer to Figure 2)

The LSPS provides the current background, local policy context and proposed policy updates. The majority of Accelerated LEP Review projects are in progress or nearing completion and will inform a future amendment to the LSPS.

There is also other great work being done by Council which will separately inform the LSPS, including:

- Public Domain Guidelines and Signage Strategy
- Waste Strategy
- Bushfire Management Strategy
- Integrated Land Use Transport Strategy



Other Council work which will inform the LSPS



Figure 2 – Council's Accelerated LEP Review Program

Hornsby Now

Our Place

The traditional inhabitants of the Shire are the Aboriginal people of the Darug, Guringai and Darkinjung language groups. In 2016, 0.4 percent of the Shire's population (665 people) identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. The majority of Aboriginal people live in and around the Hornsby Central Business District (CBD) and in the north of the Shire.

European settlement in the Shire dates from 1794 when the first land grants were made along the Hawkesbury River, with land used mainly for farming. The opening of the Newcastle and North Shore railway lines in the 1890s resulted in Hornsby CBD becoming a railway town and a major centre.

The 'Bushland Shire' enjoys the benefits and convenience of city living with enviable access to pristine bushland and waterways. It is the place where the city meets the bush. Hornsby Shire forms part of the Northern Suburbs, being located approximately 25 kilometres north of the Sydney CBD.

The Shire is bound by Wisemans Ferry and the Hawkesbury River to the North; Cowan Creek to the East; the M2 Motorway and parts of Ku-ring-gai Council area; City of Ryde and City of Parramatta to the South; and the Hills Shire to the West.

The Shire has an area of approximately 460km², of which almost 70 percent is characterised by bushland comprising national park, major waterways, natural reserves and rural landscape. Of the remaining land, 10 percent is zoned and used for urban purposes, 15 percent is used for rural purposes and 5 percent is for open spaces. Our community values the variety of landscapes throughout the Shire.

Hornsby Shire is shaped by our natural environment, population growth, housing and employment opportunities. The Shire continues to change, evolve and grow to cater to the changing needs of the community. Some of the major challenges ahead include climate change, traffic congestion, economic and technological changes, the rate of population growth and the social makeup of the community. These challenges are not unique to our area and all of Sydney is under pressure to address them.

Aboriginal Connections to Country

The Aboriginal heritage of the Hornsby Shire region was at least 15,000 to 20,000 years old by the time European settlers arrived in 1788.

The Hawkesbury River, called Deerubbin, was central to their way of life. Yams, a staple food, grew plentifully along the riverbanks, and both men and women fished for fish, eels, and shellfish within the river. Bark canoes were used for travel and transportation along the rivers and creeks which provided efficient transport routes for the Darug and Guringai as well as neighbouring groups such as the Darkinjung people to the north of Deerubbin on the Central Coast.

Many of the local names reflect this longstanding connection to water, such as Deerubbin meaning "wide, deep water" and Cowan meaning "big water."

There are more than 200 known Aboriginal heritage sites in Hornsby Shire, including rock shelters, middens and engravings. Burial sites are not common, but they are the most sacred sites to Aborigines. Around the year 1900 a burial site was discovered in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, which also contains carvings of many types.

Middens and carvings can be found at Bobbin Head and Berowra Waters, while a collection of ceremonial carvings can be found off the Pacific Highway near Berowra.

Aboriginal people continue to live in Hornsby Shire, still caring for Country.

Our Settlement History

The Hawkesbury River was one of the first regions explored by Europeans following settlement in 1788. Six weeks after the arrival of the First Fleet, Governor Phillip led an exploration through Broken Bay in search of a large river to provide fertile land capable of cultivating crops for the colony. A branch of the Hawkesbury River was discovered, but due to a shortage of supplies the party was forced to return.

The following year, a second expedition, led by Governor Phillip, continued the exploration of the river. Upon discovering that the river was of a substantial size, Governor Phillip named it the Hawkesbury after the Baron of Hawkesbury. The party travelled for 16 days, passing Gentleman's Halt, Laughtondale and Wisemans Ferry before reaching the fertile plains at Windsor. The river provided the major transport route for farmers and became the lifeline for the delivery of produce to the growing colony. The shoreline also provided a good location for other commercial activities to establish, such as salt production, flour milling and boat building.

In 1825, Heneage Finch surveyed land from Castle Hill to Wisemans Ferry along the ridge to enable a road to be constructed, connecting Sydney with the Hunter Valley. The road was a continuation of Old Northern Road which had been constructed in 1817 from the Government Farm in Castle Hill to the present township of Galston. The new road was named the Great North Road and replaced the old Putty Road that linked Windsor, Putty and Bulga to the Hunter River. Today, the road is still used and is becoming a historical attraction.

The European histories of the suburbs that now make up Hornsby Shire all follow a similar pattern. The first Europeans to arrive in the districts from 1794 onwards were generally farmers and orchardists, followed by timber-getters from 1816. However, there are broad overlaps. Once the valuable timber was removed, orchardists and farmers were more readily able to cultivate the land. With improvements in roads and the coming of the railway, fruit growers diversified their plantings as their produce could now reach market without spoiling. Along the railway line, land started to increase in value and subdivisions into residential blocks started.

The town of Hornsby, from which the Shire takes its name, was named after police Constable Horne. In 1838, police Constables Thorn and Horne were rewarded with grants of land for the capture of bushranger John MacNamara who had stolen a Parramatta dignitary's

watch. Constable Thorn's land later became known as the suburb of Thornleigh, while a village sprang up on Constable Horne's land which until the 1890s was known as the village of Hornsby.

However, that is not the Hornsby that people know today. In 1893, the first railway junction was built and called Hornsby Junction, which created considerable confusion with the village of Hornsby to the south. Eventually the village was renamed Normanhurst and the railway station became Hornsby. Because the main northern railway line and the North Shore line joined at Hornsby, it developed as a railway town.

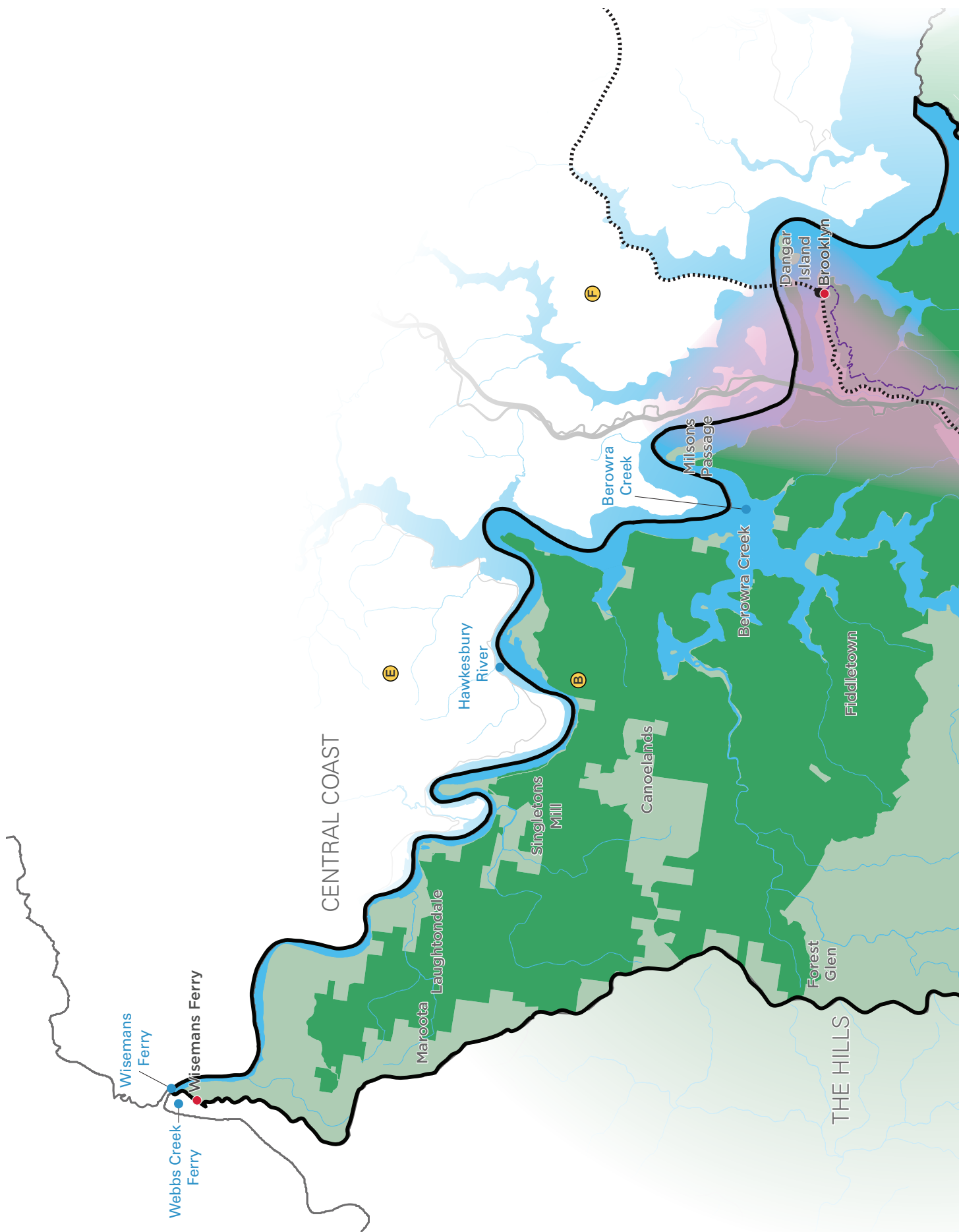
Hornsby Shire Council was created in 1906. Most of the early development within the Shire followed the railway lines. Urban growth only spread into other areas with the introduction and eventual dominance of the motor car. Since the end of World War Two, there has been a period of rapid growth within the Shire, seeing the population increasing from 30,500 in 1945 to 150,752 in 2018.

In May 2016, the area south of the M2 Motorway was removed from Hornsby Shire by the State Government and transferred to the City of Parramatta Council. Hornsby Shire Council strongly protested the decision. The NSW Government's plan at the time was to merge Ku-ring-gai Council with the remainder of Hornsby Shire Council. However, the plan did not proceed.



Peats Ferry Road and Dural Street, Hornsby

Hornsby in the North District



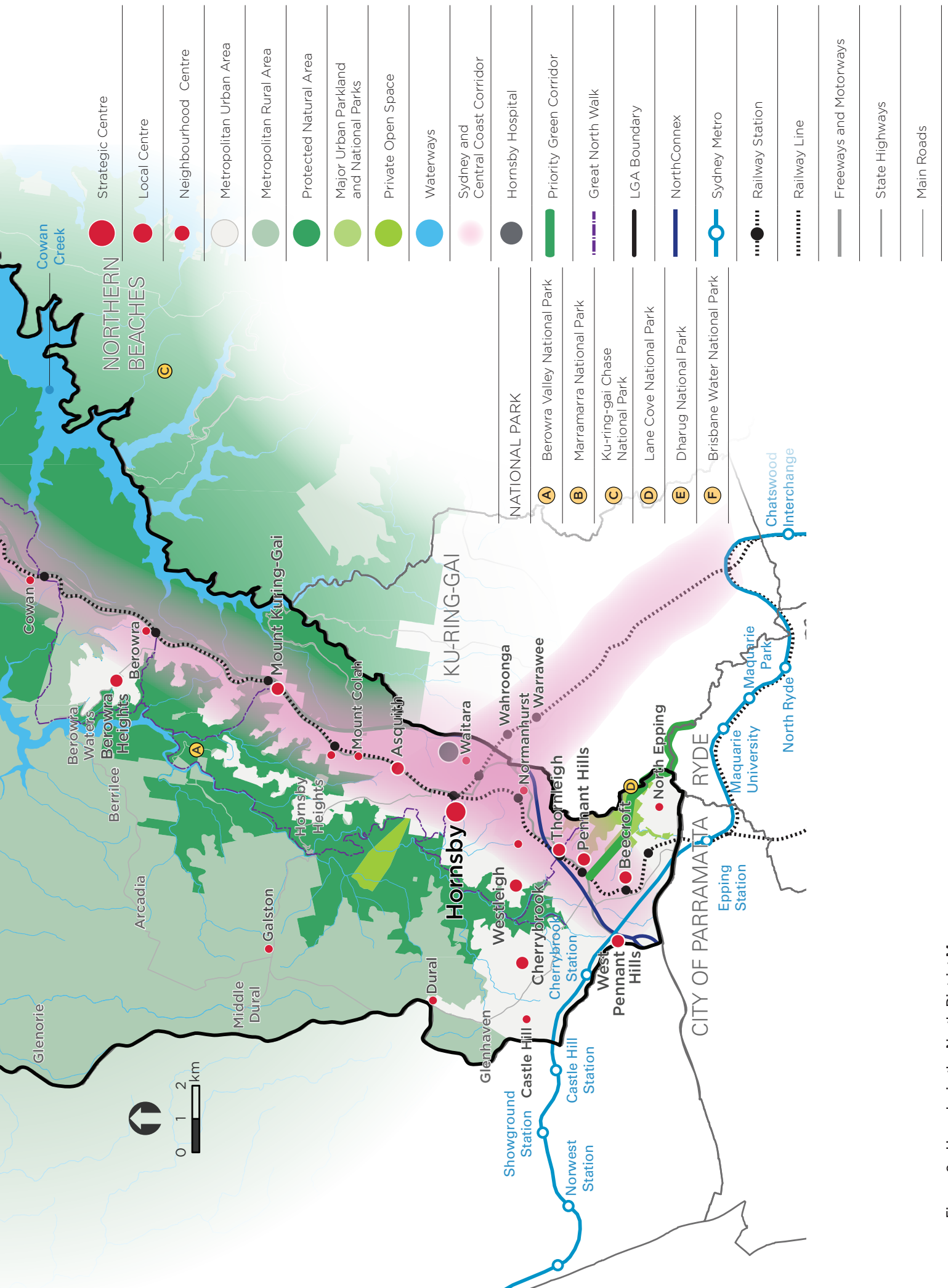


Figure 3 – Horsby in the North District Map

Our People

The ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) in June 2018 for the Shire was 150,752 persons. The annual change in ERP has fluctuated with a steady increase from 2012 to 2015 and then a significant spike in 2017 coinciding with the completion of new development. (Refer to Figure 4)

Annual change in Estimate Resident Population (ERP)

Hornsby Shire

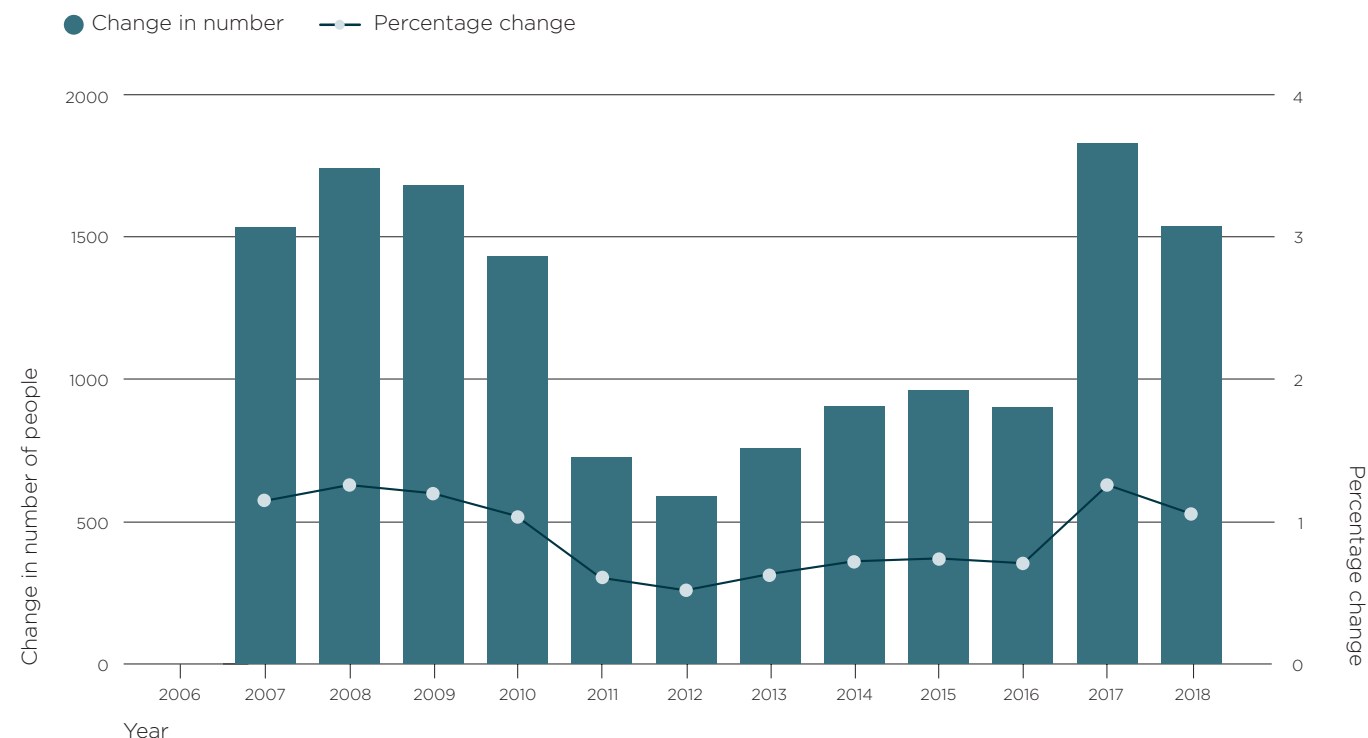


Figure 4 – Annual change in Estimated Resident Population (ERP)

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0)*.

Compiled and presented by .id the population experts

In 2016, the dominant age group in the Shire was 40 to 44 year olds, which accounted for 7.7 percent of the total population. This will also be the largest 5-year age group in 2036, with a predicted total of 13,331 persons. The largest increase in age group forecast from 2016 to 2036 is 30 to 34 years old, which is expected to increase by 2,622 and account for 6.2 percent of the total population. Population aged over 85 is also predicted to increase from 2.6 percent of the total population in 2016 to 3.5 percent in 2036, representing an estimated increase of 2,420 persons.

(Refer to Figure 5)

Age structure - five year age groups, 2016

Total persons

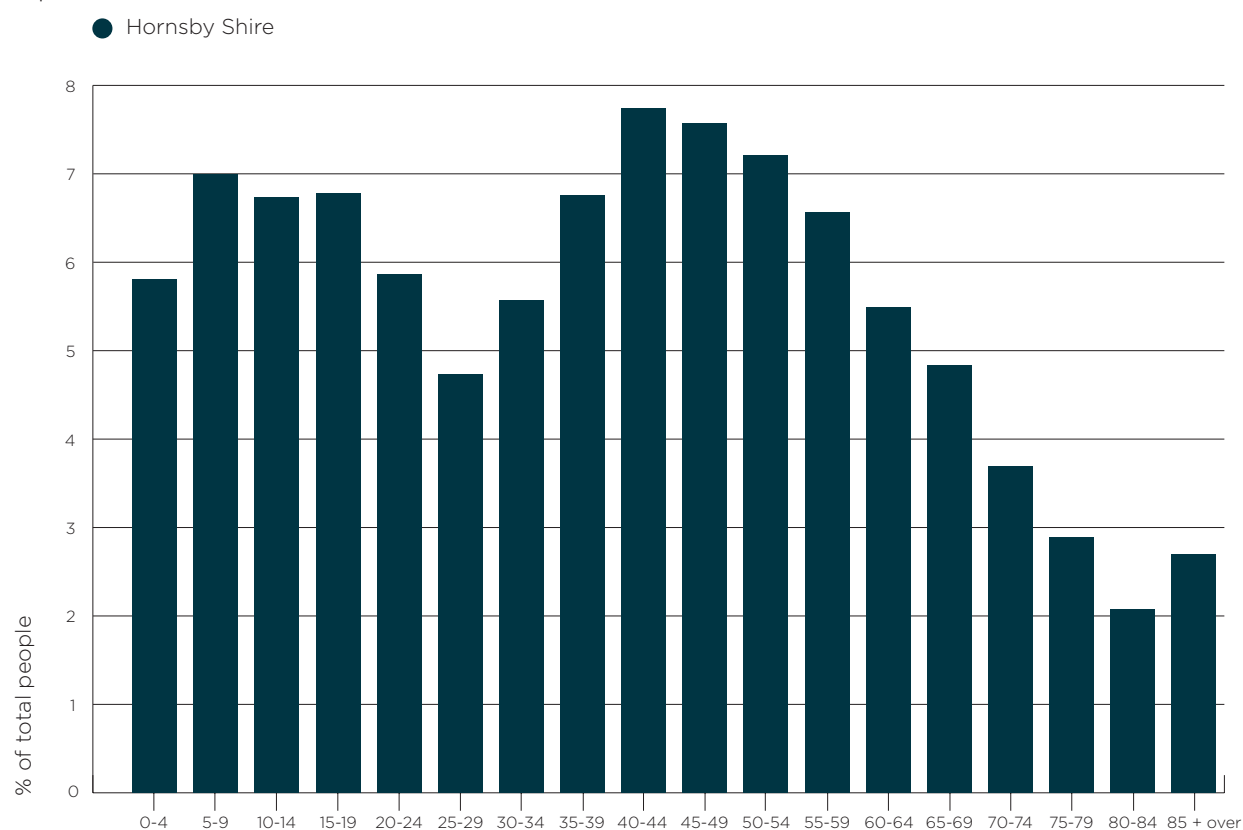


Figure 5 – Age Structure - five year age groups, 2016

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Usual residence data).

Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id the population experts

Between 2011 and 2016, the number of households in Hornsby Shire increased by 1,267. The Shire continues to be dominated by “couples with children” households, which account for 45 percent of all households and this percentage is higher than Greater Sydney. However, the breakdown of household type within the Shire is virtually unchanged since the 2011 Census. (Refer to Figure 6)

Percentage breakdown of household types in Hornsby Shire

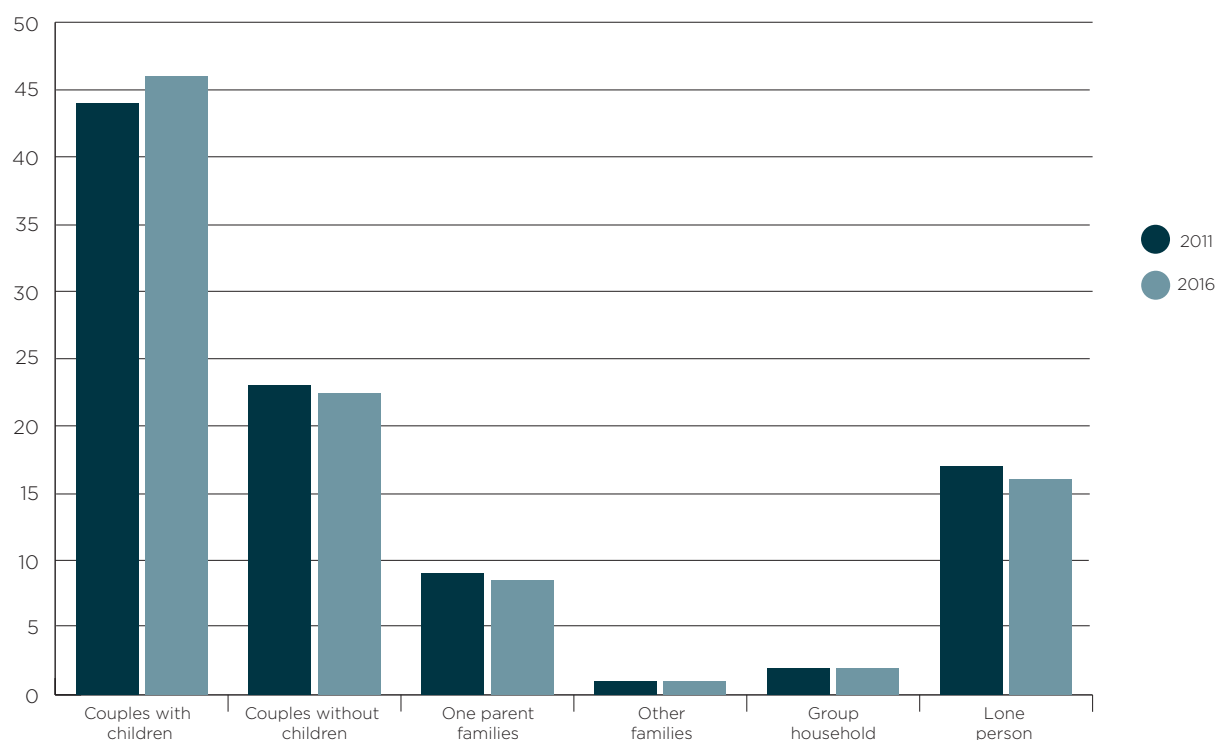


Figure 6 – Percentage breakdown of household types in Hornsby Shire

Hornsby Shire Community

WHO WE ARE



MEDIAN AGE

40



FEMALES

51%



MALES

49%



COMPLETED
YEAR 12 SCHOOLING

69%



UNIVERSITY
QUALIFICATION

38%



TRADE
QUALIFICATION

13%



PARTICIPATION RATE
(POPULATION IN
LABOUR FORCE)

65%



UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE (SEP 2018)

4.69%

HOW WE LIVE



LONE PERSON
HOUSEHOLDS

17%



HOUSEHOLDS
WITH CHILDREN

54%



OLDER COUPLES
WITHOUT CHILDREN

11%



HOUSEHOLDS WITH
A MORTGAGE

39%



HOUSEHOLDS
RENTING

21%



LIVE IN A
SEPARATE HOUSE

72%



LIVE IN MEDIUM
DENSITY DWELLING

12%



LIVE IN HIGH
DENSITY DWELLING

15%

WHERE WE COME FROM



BORN OVERSEAS

37%



TOP 5 BIRTHPLACES

1. China 6.1%

2. UK 4.9%

3. India 3.8%

4. South Korea 1.9%

5. Hong Kong 1.6%



SPEAK LANGUAGE
OTHER THAN ENGLISH

31%



SPEAK ENGLISH ONLY
OR SPEAK IT WELL

92%



Our Economy

The Shire's Gross Regional Product is estimated at \$6.88 billion, which represents 1.2 percent of the State's Gross State Product.

According to the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR), in 2018 there were 60,943 local jobs in Hornsby Shire. The largest employer is the Health Care and Social Assistance sector (17.1 percent), followed by Education and Training (13.1 percent) and Retail Trade (12.2 percent).

The labour force participation rate in Hornsby Shire in 2016 was 64.8 percent, with 74,371 residents over the age of 15 employed. More Hornsby Shire residents worked in Health Care and Social Assistance than in any other industry in 2016. The second highest employment industry for residents of Hornsby Shire was Professional Scientific and Technical Services. Approximately 72 percent of the Shire's working population travel outside of the local government area to work and only 28 percent live and work in the Shire. (Refer to Figure 7)

Residents - Place of work	%
Live in Hornsby Shire but work outside	72
Live and work in Hornsby Shire	28



Figure 7 – Residents - Place of work

Our Environment

Hornsby Shire is characterised by large tracts of bushland, estimated at almost 70 percent of the Shire. Berowra Valley National Park and several large national parks account for a significant area of bushland, featuring vegetation growing on the infertile soils and deeply dissected Hawkesbury Sandstone terrain. The Shire lies within the Sydney Basin bioregion and the Central Coast Botanical Subdivision and thus has ecological features characteristic of both.

Major water courses within the Shire are the Hawkesbury River, Berowra Creek and Cowan Creek. These creeks supply the Hawkesbury and begin in the upper reaches of our urban areas such as Hornsby and Cherrybrook. Hornsby Shire has over 1,000 native plant species and 338 native vertebrate animal species. To date, there are 26 threatened plant species and 42 known species of animals listed as threatened in Hornsby Shire. Within our Shire we have a tree canopy cover of 59 percent, however this falls to 36 percent of our total urban areas.

Current climate projections for the Shire indicate warmer and drier conditions with more frequent droughts and bushfires. Extreme weather events such as storms, heavier rainfall and more hot days each year are projected to become more severe over the next 20 years and we will need to work with our community to improve resilience.

Image credit: SP Creative Media - Brooklyn Swimming Pool





Future Hornsby

Our Growth

The population of Hornsby Shire is forecast to increase by 1 percent per annum, from 147,661 people in 2016 to 179,582 in 2036, requiring an additional 14,879 homes. Growth is expected to be highest between 2016 and 2021, then decrease as development rates fall. Average household size is forecast to decline from 2.91 to 2.75 persons per household from 2016 to 2036.

Population growth is driven predominantly by growth in dwelling stock. The main areas of growth in the short-term are Asquith, Waitara and Hornsby (non-Town Centre area). By 2031, population growth is expected to focus in the Hornsby Town Centre in response to Council's commitment to revitalising Hornsby under the Hornsby Town Centre Review.

(Refer to 'Productive' chapter and Figures 8 and 9)

Forecast population 2016-2036

Hornsby Shire

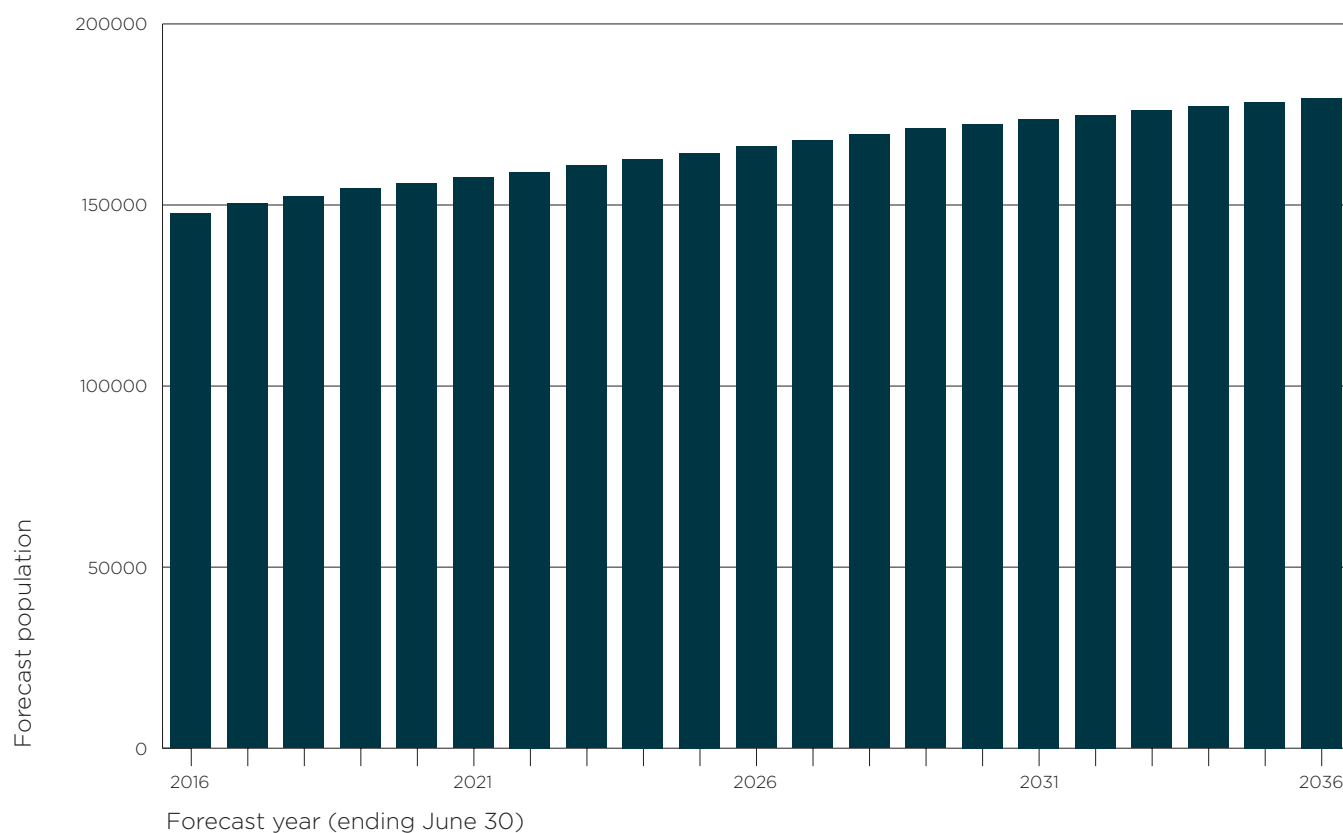


Figure 8 – Forecast Population 2016-2036

Source: Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2036, prepared by .id, February 2019.

Assumed Share of population growth by suburb by period

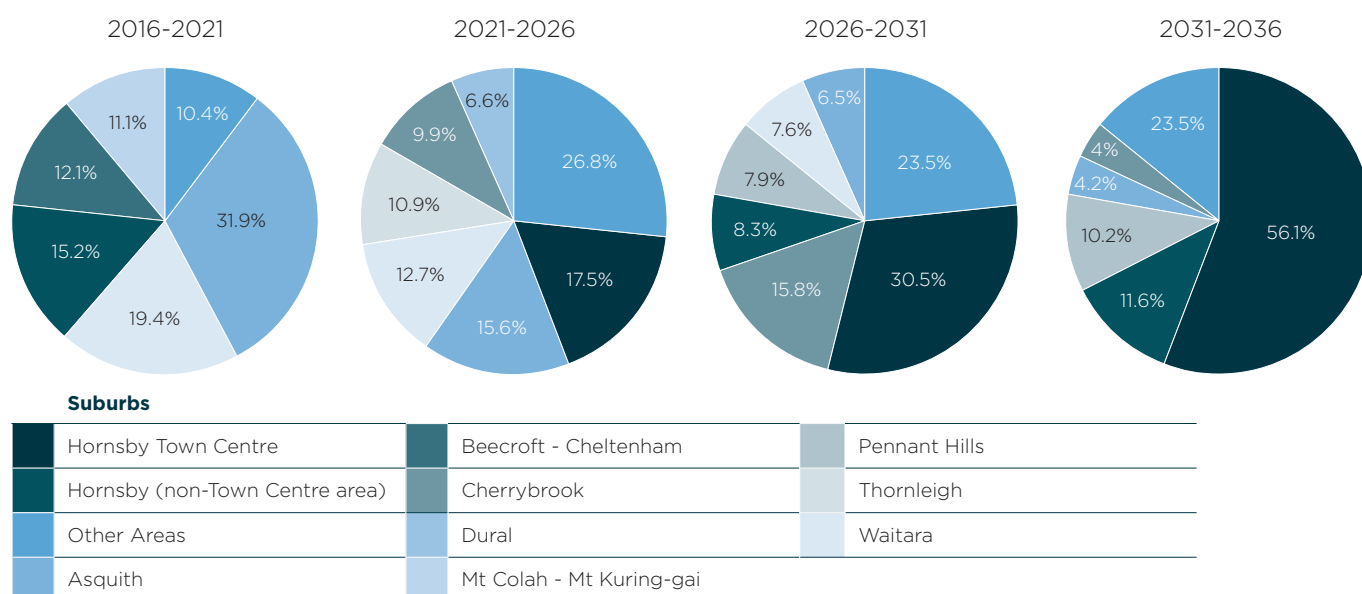


Figure 9 – Share of population growth by suburb by period

Source: .id, Hornsby Shire Forecasts (forecast .id), 2019

Note: assumed scenario based on Hornsby Shire Housing Strategy assumptions outlined in the 'Hornsby Shire Population Projections Report 2016-2036' endorsed by Council on 10 April 2019, of remaining capacity in existing housing precincts, development of government land at Cherrybrook and redevelopment of the Hornsby Town Centre. The scenario does not include any assumptions for medium density housing.

Age Structure

Net population increases are expected in all age groups from 2016 to 2036 in line with the increased diversity of dwelling stock. (Refer to Figure 10)

Age structure, Hornsby Shire 2016-2036

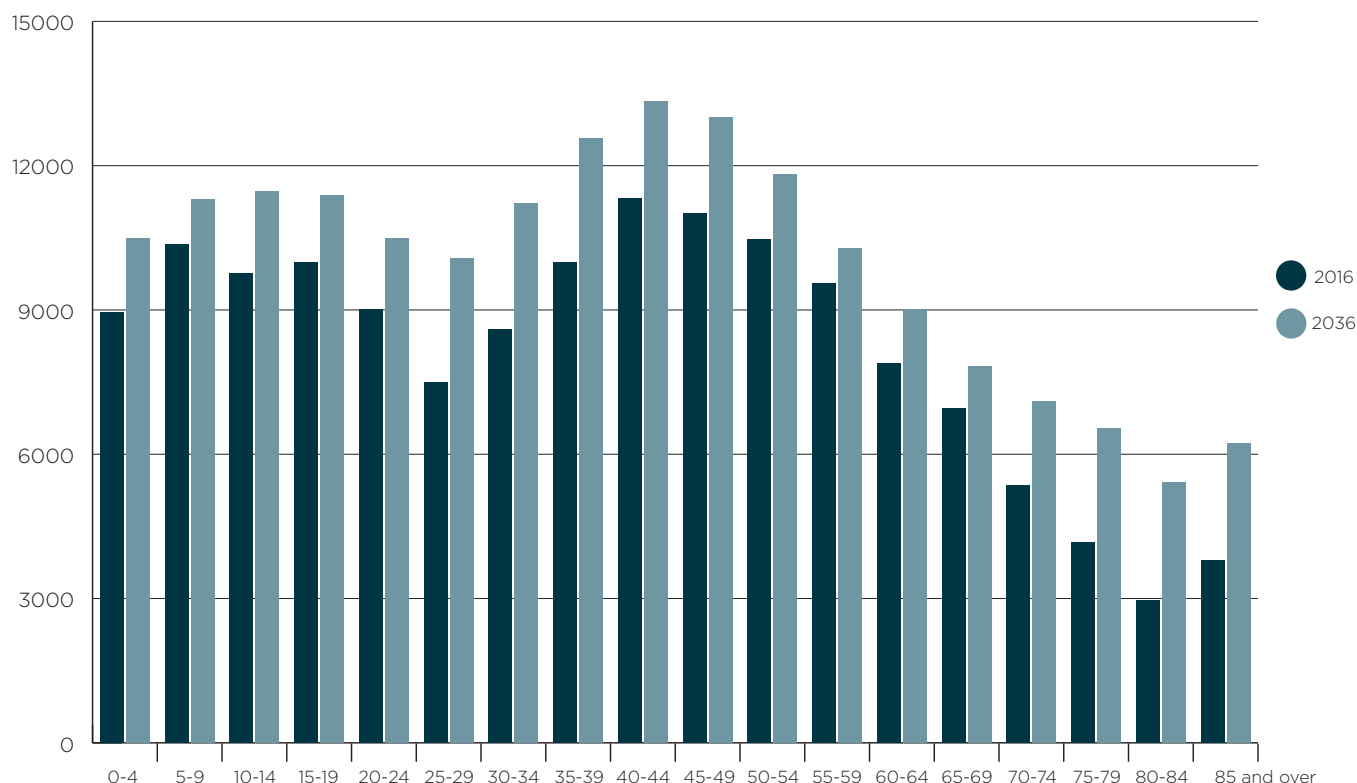


Figure 10 – Age Structure, Hornsby Shire 2016-2036

Source: .id, Hornsby Shire Forecasts (forecast .id), 2019

A notable increase in elderly demographics is expected. The median age is forecast to increase slightly from 38.8 to 39.3 years. Some of the notable demographic changes between 2016 and 2036 include:

- Decreasing share of 0-4 years
from 6.1 percent to 5.8 percent
- Decreasing share of 5-17 years
from 17.8 percent to 16.5 percent
- Increasing share of 18-39 years
from 26.4 percent to 27.2 percent
- Decreasing share of 40-69 years
from 38.7 percent to 36.4 percent
- Increasing share of population aged 70 and over
from 11.0 percent to 14.1 percent

In 2016, the dominant household type in the Shire was couples with children, which accounted for 45.3 percent of all households.

The largest increase between 2016 and 2026 is forecast to be in lone person households, which will increase by 2,835 households and account for 19.7 percent of all households.

As of 2016, the dwelling stock of Hornsby Shire featured more than 72 percent separate houses. Despite the greater densities, the impact of current zoning and likely increases in high density dwellings in the Hornsby Town Centre and Cherrybrook on Government owned lands, the dwelling stock in Hornsby Shire is likely to remain substantially detached well beyond 2036 as will be demonstrated in our Local Housing Strategy.

Our Vision

Hornsby Shire Councillors were elected in September 2017. In February 2018, Councillors developed a vision for their term of office which consists of a Value Statement, an Action Statement and acknowledgment of external impacts:

Value Statement

Our Bushland Shire is a place for people. It has impressive places and wonderful environments and offers a great lifestyle for all members of our community.

Action Statement

We are committed to collaboratively implementing infrastructure, sustainability, liveability, productivity and affordability initiatives to ensure our Bushland Shire thrives now and into the future.

External Impacts

Our Bushland Shire is being shaped by our natural environment, population growth, housing and employment opportunities.

Future land use decisions and strategies should be considered in regards to their consistency with the above Value Statement and Action Statement.





Statement from the Next Generation

We believe in:

A culturally diverse and inclusive Shire; with a global approach to sustainability, and a local sense of community. Where the values of the people are reflected in the actions of our leaders.

Key Priorities and Actions

A number of different local priorities and actions are identified throughout this Local Strategic Planning Statement.

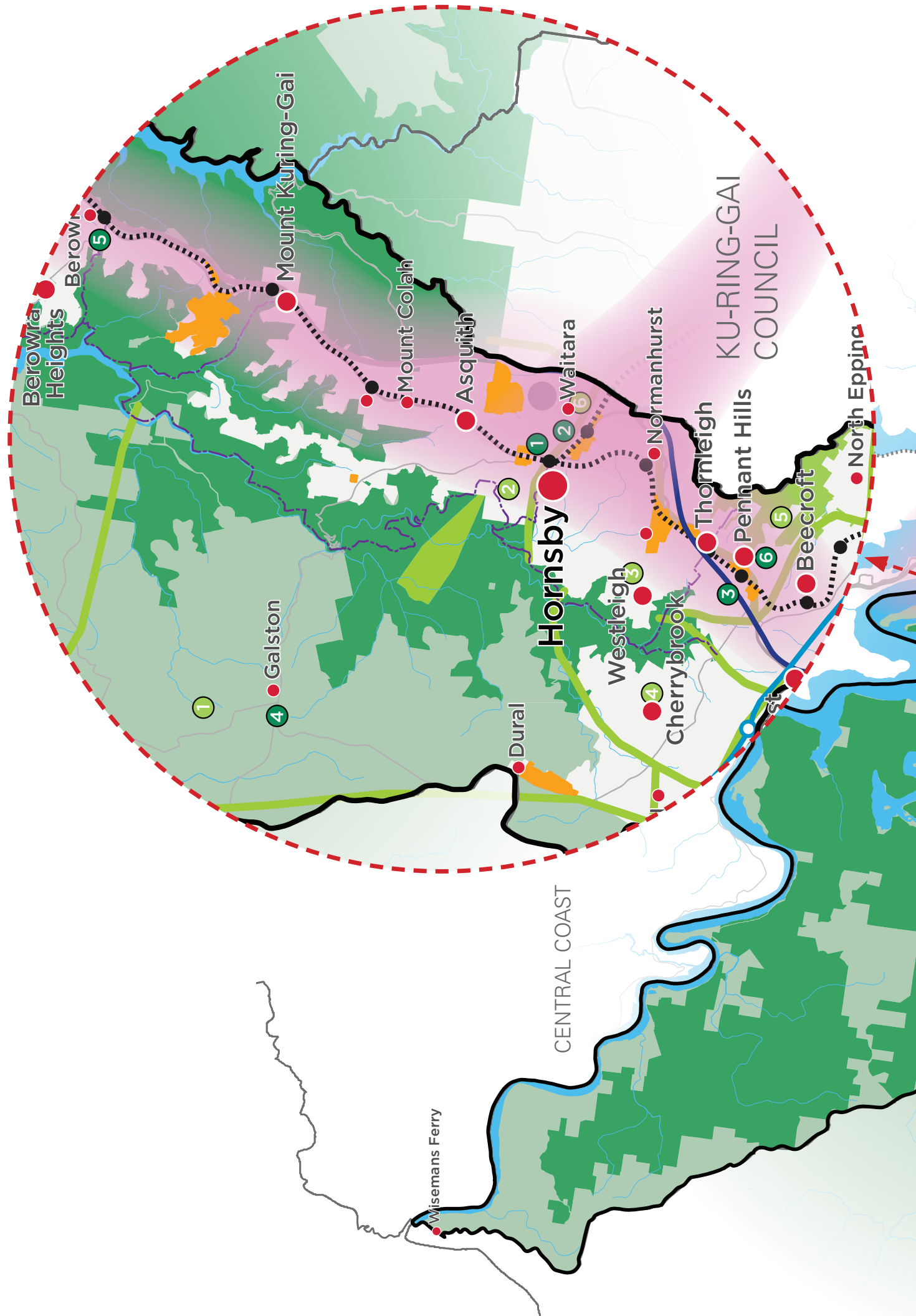
Our community has clearly identified its priorities through our Community Strategic Plan 'Your Vision, Your Future 2018-2028' which has informed the following key priorities and actions.

Our Key Priorities

1. Expanding our tree canopy cover and protecting mature trees to enhance the environmental qualities and character of the bushland shire
2. Protecting the character of our low density neighbourhoods
3. Responding to climate change with an active strategy to reduce carbon emissions and manage energy, waste and water efficiently
4. Improving the quality of architectural design of new development
5. Enhancing, protecting, conserving and promoting our natural, built and cultural heritage
6. Revitalising the Hornsby Town Centre
7. Protecting and enhancing the environmental value and economic productivity of the Metropolitan Rural Lands in the Shire
8. Supporting sustainable economic growth based on the Shire's built and natural assets, infrastructure and locational advantages
9. Building our resilience to natural hazards, including bushfire risk, flooding and storms
10. Promoting the '30-minute City' by improving the walkability, connectivity and accessibility of our centres and neighbourhoods.

Our Key Actions

1. Concentrate future housing provision in our Strategic Centre – Hornsby Town Centre.
2. Finalise the Hornsby Town Centre Review.
3. Complete the Hornsby Comprehensive Heritage Study.
4. Finalise the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and the supporting strategies.
5. Finalise the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.
6. Finalise the Play Plan.
7. Finalise the Walking and Cycling Strategy.
8. Finalise the Housing Strategy update.
9. Finalise the Community and Cultural Facilities Plan update.
10. Finalise the Hornsby Rural Lands Study.
11. Prepare and adopt a design excellence Planning Proposal and submit to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for a Gateway Determination.



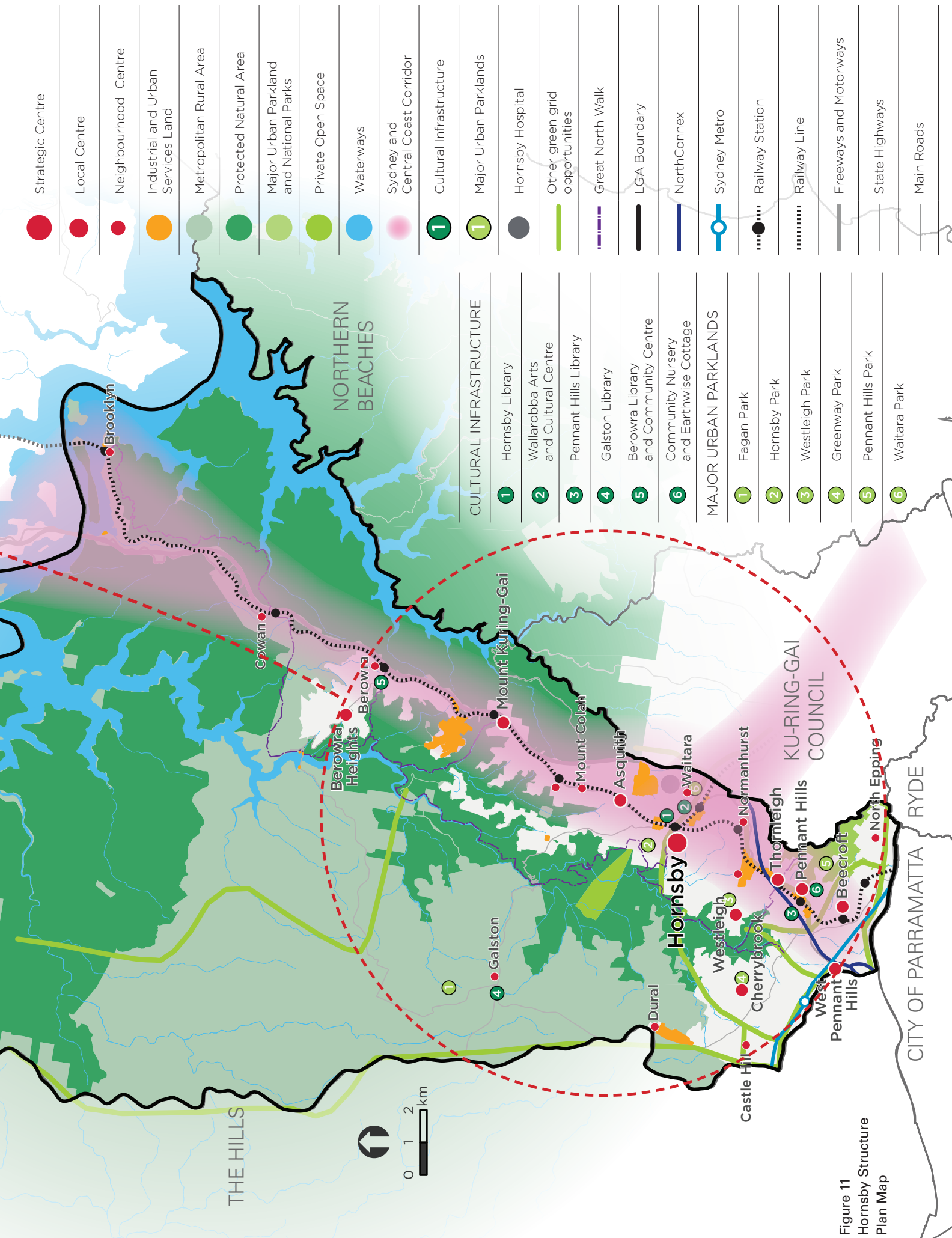


Figure 11
Hornsby Structure
Plan Map



Liveable

“



Supporting all of our community to succeed and live well. We are the advocates of our community and culture.

”

This chapter highlights the liveable aspects of Hornsby Shire, current community priorities and our vision. It is followed by priorities and actions that will protect and enhance our liveability over the next 20 years, with specific focus on:

- Our Services and Social Infrastructure;
- Our Housing;
- Our Public Spaces;
- Our Recreation and Play Spaces
- Our Building Design;
- Our Affordability;
- Our Key Workers;
- Our Local Infrastructure; and
- Our Heritage.

North District Plan Directions

A city for people	A city of great places	Housing the city
Celebrating diversity and putting people at the heart of planning	Designing places for people	Giving people housing choices
		

Our Priorities

1. Infrastructure meets the needs of the population
2. People have good opportunities to participate in community life
3. The area feels safe

(Hornsby Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028)



Introduction

Members of our community call Hornsby Shire home for a number of reasons. They have expressed a desire to protect and enhance the attributes that contribute to its overall liveability. Accessibility to public transport, abundant opportunities to participate in community life, and the feeling of safety and security in the area make Hornsby Shire a special place to live.

Placing people at the heart of planning, designing places for people, and giving people housing choices are critical directions for Hornsby. As we look to the needs of the current and future community over the next 20 years, there are a number of opportunities for Council to reinforce the importance of our community in the decisions we make regarding liveability.

By providing greater housing choice for our community, we can meet the housing needs of increasingly diverse residents and families (such as young families, students and retirees) throughout their life. Housing diversity also encourages active lifestyles, increases the number of people living and working close to jobs, services and amenities, as well as managing growth pressures.

Council has recently restructured its staff. This has included the establishment of a new Strategy and Place Unit that will look at opportunities to improve our public space and identify key actions aimed at improving the liveability of the Shire.

Informed by the priorities of our Community Strategic Plan and updated population projections, Council has focused its attention on the following areas to protect and enhance the liveability of our Shire.

Our Services and Social Infrastructure

Hornsby Shire has access to a wide range of local services and social infrastructure that are operated both publicly and privately. Council's *Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan (2015)* sets a long-term direction for the provision of community and cultural facilities in the Shire. The plan identifies the following principles:

- a coordinated network;
- centrally located within districts and regions;
- serving identified social and cultural needs;
- making best use of existing facilities;
- financially sustainable;
- multipurpose and flexible;
- friendly and welcoming;
- accessible; and
- near public space.

Since the commencement of the Plan there has been an adjustment along Hornsby's southern boundary, which has implications for the distribution and usage of facilities for our current community. Current planning for the Cherrybrook Station Precinct and the Hornsby Town Centre will also impact on localised demand for certain community and cultural facilities in the medium and longer term, due to population growth.

The location, design, functionality and use of our community and cultural facilities, for both the current and future community over the next 20 years, will need to be carefully planned. Updated population projections have been prepared to provide a better understanding of how Hornsby will change demographically and spatially, to ensure the provision of new or improved community and cultural facilities meet the needs of our community.

In response to the above, Council has commenced an update to its *Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan* to consider additional opportunities for inclusive community facilities that are capable of shared use that will serve as social, cultural and economic hubs within different parts of the Shire. There may also be opportunities to use public land for the provision of new or embellished social infrastructure in highly accessible locations or areas generating higher demand for services.

One key consideration for Council is the promotion of access to health fresh food and supporting local fresh food production. Encouraging fresh food production in urban areas, such as community gardens, private gardens, rooftop gardens and verge gardens will increase access to local produce and provide opportunities for building connection and community in local

neighbourhoods. Council will investigate ways to prioritise the inclusion of outlets within mixed use developments which provide quality fresh fruit and vegetables to ensure there is adequate access and distribution in neighbourhoods.

Hornsby Town Centre facilities will be a focus, with the *Hornsby Town Centre Review* project presenting a unique opportunity to consider a range of innovative alternatives to the design, functionality and purpose of community facilities. Council envisages facilities that are prominently located, highly accessible and designed in such a way as to contribute to the vibrancy of the public realm and community life within the Hornsby Town Centre. Council will prioritise the inclusion of spaces for arts and cultural purposes, as well as spaces that will support small business and community members alike.

Our Housing

Hornsby Shire has developed its role in the Sydney housing market over the previous decades. Like many areas that are at the urban/rural interface, our Shire is especially attractive to families seeking larger detached dwellings, within an area that offers significant natural beauty and high amenity. The attractions of the Shire include excellent public transport and road links, high quality and varied school opportunities, and access to a strong job catchment in northern and central Sydney.

Despite these favourable attributes, the Shire experienced relatively slow growth between 2011 and 2016. As Figure 11 below indicates, as Northern Sydney and Sydney more generally experienced vast increases in housing stock from 2011-2016, there was relatively little increase in Hornsby Shire.

Figure 12 - Historical and forecast dwelling gain, Hornsby and Northern Sydney, 1996-2016

	2011-16
Hornsby dwelling gain	1,598
North District	19,422
Hornsby (percent)	8.2%

Source: ABS, *Census of Population and Housing*

However, with the adoption of the *Hornsby Shire Housing Strategy 2011*, new areas were identified for medium and high-density development. The Housing Strategy adopted a precinct-based approach to concentrate housing in certain areas to protect the environmentally sensitive areas of the Shire and the character of our lower density suburbs. Precincts were selected close to public transport and commercial centres, providing our community with certainty about

where future development would be focussed. This approach also enables Council to plan and provide the necessary services and infrastructure to cater for the anticipated population growth.

The precincts were rezoned to allow for a mix of townhouse, five-storey and eight-to ten-storey residential and mixed-used developments in parts of Asquith, Beecroft, Carlingford, Hornsby, Mount Colah, Normanhurst, Pennant Hills, Thornleigh, Waitara and West Pennant Hills. (Refer to Figure 15)

Additional development was also separately identified for the western side of Hornsby Town Centre.

Development activity in the rezoned precincts listed above has increased since 2016, and the Shire is on track to deliver a net increase of 4,500 dwellings between 2016 and 2021. This is about 17 percent of Northern Sydney's net dwelling gain. (Refer to Figures 13 and 14)

	Historical				Forecast			
	1996-01	2001-06	2006-11	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36
Hornsby dwelling gain	3,282	3,443	1,198	1,598	4,459	3,776	3,500-4,000	3,000-3,500
North District	14,037	13,909	12,589	19,422	25,950	22,017	22,017	22,017
Hornsby (percent)	23.4%	24.8%	9.5%	8.2%	17.2%	17.1%	16.3%	13.6%

Figure 13 – Historical and forecast dwelling gain, Hornsby Shire and Northern Sydney, 1996-2036

Source: ABS, *Census of Population and Housing*; id, *Hornsby Shire Forecasts (forecast.id)*, 2019

This means Council is well-placed to meet our five year housing target under the North District Plan of 4,350 additional dwellings by 2021. With existing capacity within the zoned areas and the potential redevelopment of Government-owned land around Cherrybrook Station, we are also well on our way to meeting longer term housing targets.

LGA	Greater Sydney Regional Plan target 2016-2021	Dwelling approvals Jul 2015-Dec-2018	Percent 2016-2021 target already approved
Hornsby	4,350	4,254	97.8%

Figure 14 – Housing Targets vs Dwelling approvals, Hornsby LGA, 2016-2021

Source: Greater Sydney Commission, *North District Plan – connecting communities*; ABS, *Building Approvals Australia*

Existing Housing Precincts

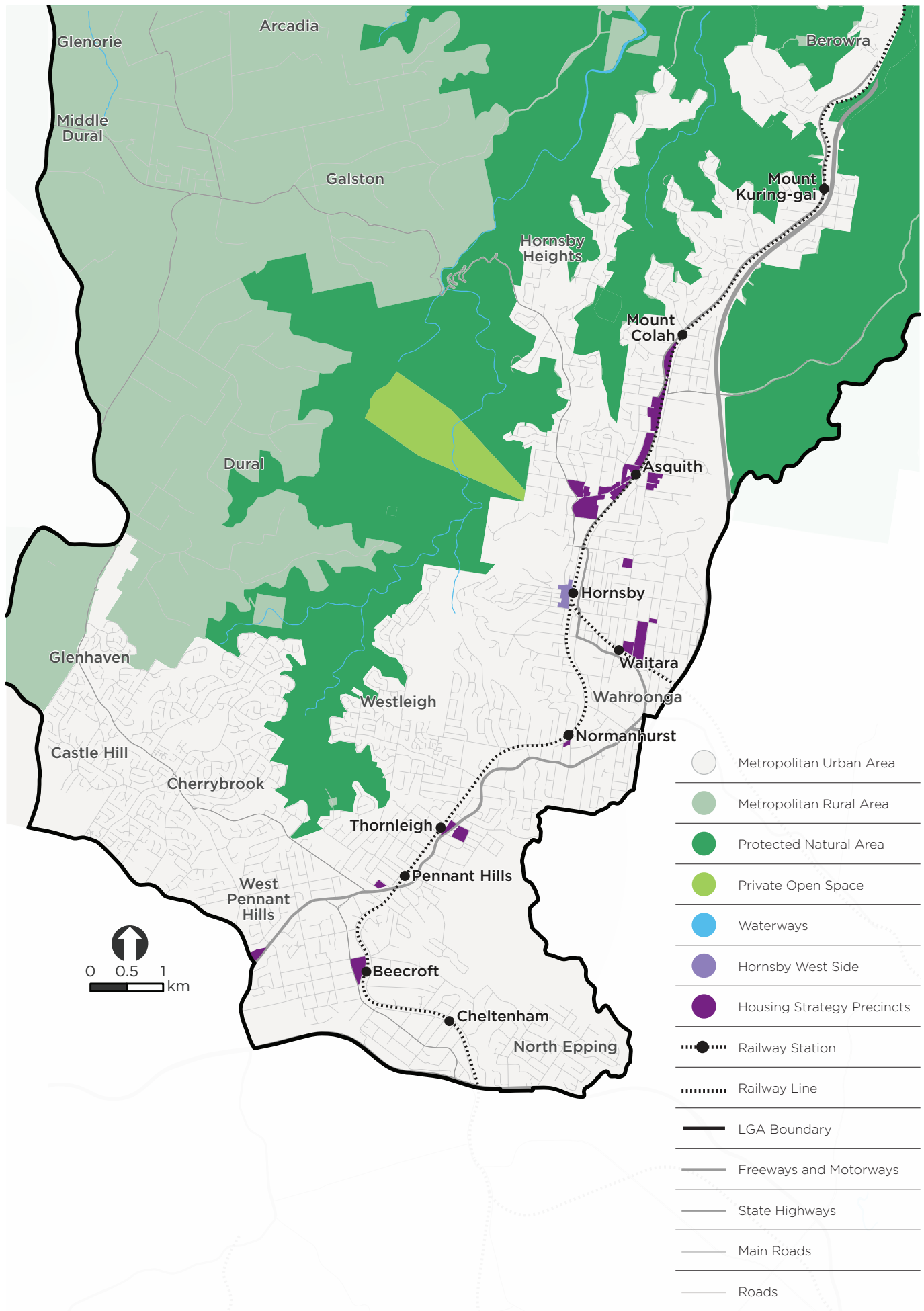


Figure 15 – Housing Precincts Map

Council is mindful that, although there is sufficient zoned land and development pipeline capacity to accommodate dwelling growth, Council's planning for the medium to long term will need a focus on housing choice and diversity. This will involve assessment of the demand for medium density development, a form of housing which is lacking within the Shire. However, Council will not look at expanding the application of the R3 Medium Density zone in future housing strategies unless the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment provides an option to prepare local planning controls for medium density housing that are reflective of the landscape setting of the Shire.

One of the key constraints for future housing is our bushland setting. Our bushland is one of the Shire's assets but also presents a significant bushfire risk to a large portion of our population. Until the Rural Fire Service is satisfied that Bushfire Evacuation Risk Modelling and Management Planning is adequate, Council will not support increased densities north of Yirra Road, Mount Colah. (Refer to 'Sustainable' chapter)

Our suburbs have also experienced less obvious forms of increases in density. The impact of State policies to encourage smaller, more affordable housing has been noticeable. Granny flats (secondary dwellings) have been very popular with our community but we are aware of concerns relating to their design, size and positioning, particularly on smaller properties. The removal of trees to accommodate granny flats, as well as the loss of tree canopy across the Shire, is one of our key concerns. Our response to the loss of trees and tree canopy is further discussed in the 'Sustainable' chapter.

Another impact has come from State Government policies which encourage housing for seniors and people with a disability. These policies have had an impact across Hornsby Shire, with aged-care and seniors housing being built. Council is aware of further applications and proposals, under State policies for these types of housing. The proliferation of seniors housing in our rural area does not represent a strategic approach to the sustainable development of these areas. The key issues facing our rural areas are further discussed in the 'Sustainable' chapter.

Our *Local Housing Strategy* will continue to adopt a precinct-based approach to concentrate housing in certain areas close to transport and services. It will respond to priorities identified by our community and recommendations of various technical studies.

Future housing supply in Hornsby will be based on the following principles:

- Protecting the predominant character of our lower density suburbs with large lots, an established tree canopy and a bushland or garden setting.
- Protecting lower density suburbs and environmentally constrained areas from incompatible development including poorly designed and located Child Care Centres and Medium Density Housing;
- Protecting our rural areas from inappropriate Seniors Housing development;
- Providing housing choice, diversity and affordability;
- Providing affordable housing for local residents (e.g. key workers, single-parent households, the elderly and disabled);
- Capturing value for direct community benefit; and,
- Staging the provision of future housing, with the initial focus being within a revitalised Hornsby Town Centre.

Hornsby Town Centre is recognised as a Strategic Centre within the North District Plan. Council has identified an opportunity to revitalise the town centre by initiating the *Hornsby Town Centre Review* (HTCR). The HTCR commenced in 2019 and will leverage Hornsby's favourable location and attributes.

The HTCR will investigate and provide opportunities for additional housing in the medium to longer term. Council does not anticipate changes in areas beyond the Hornsby Town Centre to provide for the expected population growth to 2036. (Additional information regarding the HTCR is detailed in the 'Productive' chapter.)

In considering areas for future housing in the longer term, there will be a focus on creating great places, rejuvenating areas and providing diverse housing choice, whilst avoiding the following areas:

- Heritage conservation areas;
- Areas with established tree canopy;
- Areas with high biodiversity and environmental value;
- Areas that are bush fire prone with high evacuation risk (refer to pages 64-66);
- Areas at high risk of flooding and inundation;
- Areas with limited transport, waste, water and road infrastructure; and
- Areas with steep topography.

Our Public Spaces

To complement development activity within housing strategy precincts, Council has commenced preparation of a *Public Domain Guideline and Signage Strategy*. This Strategy aims to improve the liveability and quality of our public spaces within current housing precincts including Asquith, Beecroft, Waitara, Thornleigh and West Pennant Hills. The work will also identify improvements to the key rural village main street in Galston.

We plan to guide the design and construction of publicly accessible shared spaces such as streets, lanes, squares and parks in and around town centre precincts. We aim to create a greater sense of place, greener streets, and improvements to local infrastructure and signage. We will achieve this by identifying key strategic projects and streetscape works that may be delivered through the redevelopment process, or via projects delivered through Council's Capital Works program.

Our *Signage Strategy* will introduce new signage for suburb identification, wayfinding and interpretive signs to be used throughout the Shire. Upgrades to public space and signage are important for local identity, access, aesthetics, vibrancy and sense of place.

Making public spaces more accessible, better designed and connected helps create engaging and vibrant villages and town centres. A key aspect of this work is to make the identified redevelopment areas more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists accessing public transport nodes, schools, shops, parks and other local destinations.

Our Recreation and Play Spaces

The *Active Living Hornsby Strategy (2016)* has identified key actions to address the recreation and open space needs of the Hornsby community and provides a strategic framework to guide and manage future open space and recreation planning for Hornsby Shire. Actions to implement the strategy include:

- *Hornsby Play Plan* considers that all people are playful, and that play has a necessary and positive influence in the health and wellbeing of the Shire's communities. The plan will guide the future provision of play spaces across the Shire ensuring inclusive design, play outcomes for different ages and identifying opportunities for nature play.
- *Walking and Cycling Plan* will identify opportunities to increase participation from all ages and backgrounds in walking and cycling for recreation, health and transport. This includes improving connectivity and accessibility to link key areas across the Shire.
- *Hornsby Sportsground Strategy (2018)* has identified key measures to address the future demands for sportsgrounds across the Shire. These measures include guiding principles for the provision of sportsfields as well as identifying opportunities for increasing the capacity of sportsgrounds through improvements to existing facilities and development of new sites.





Our Building Design

The impact of five-storey and town house developments in our existing suburban streetscapes is a priority matter that Council is working to improve. We understand that our community wants to see better built form outcomes and design excellence in new developments.

Improvements to built form and character guidelines, as well as the potential for more greening in the urban environment, have already been explored through an independent review conducted by urban design consultants.

We want our guidelines to set the benchmark for ecologically sustainable development (including bushfire protection), as well as universal design to increase dwelling versatility that encourages adaptability of housing to meet the needs of an ageing population, and people with disability throughout the Shire.

The independent review found that the desired outcomes and prescriptive measures included within the *Hornsby Development Control Plan (HDCP2013)* are generally consistent with best practice. However, further improvements have been made to our HDCP2013 to achieve the best possible environmental, streetscape and character outcomes.

A Design Review Panel has been established and new design requirements provide larger setbacks from boundaries, more landscaping on sites, higher standards for finishes and materials, and greater protection of landscaped verges.

Importantly, a local provision will be expanded within the *Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013 (HLEP2013)* which sets out design excellence criteria. Application of the design excellence clause (Clause 6.8) will be expanded to include all residential flat buildings and townhouses, regardless of height. It will also seek to reduce the height limit for residential flat buildings from 17.5m to 16.5m to align with Council's intention not to support mezzanine levels.

The above changes to the HLEP2013 have been incorporated into a planning proposal and submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Our Affordability

An *Affordable Housing Discussion Paper* has been prepared and exhibited which takes a high-level look at the range of housing and affordability issues facing the Hornsby community. It suggests a number of options that could be developed into either a future Affordable Housing Policy or separate strategies and actions.

The public exhibition and community consultation shows a strong, generalised support across stakeholders for a carefully articulated local policy on affordable housing that improves affordability for people who are experiencing rental or mortgage stress. The community is looking to Council to provide leadership in this area. However, there are some concerns about the potential impact of affordable housing on the environment and the amenity of existing residents.

Written submissions and feedback received at focus groups held during the exhibition assist our understanding of the issues facing different parts of our community. The feedback highlighted the following matters:

- Community service providers identified the Shire lacks affordable housing stock, and that the majority of affordable housing residents are people with social connections and employment within the local area who are being priced out due to high rents and house prices;
- There are some perceptions and misunderstanding from segments of the local community about affordable housing and the role it plays in supporting the vulnerable and less fortunate parts of our community;
- There is confusion about the purpose of affordable housing which results in opposition to key social infrastructure that supports local communities; and
- Through the focus group discussions, after the role and function of affordable housing was clearly explained to the participants, there was general agreement that actions are needed to address housing affordability in the Shire.

The *Affordable Housing Discussion Paper* outlines a range of options to be considered by Council. In any case, the following options will be further investigated as they are specific actions identified by the North District Plan:

1. Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme

All councils in Greater Sydney have been identified under a State Government policy (SEPP 70) as having the need for additional affordable rental housing. Council now has the option to prepare an affordable rental housing contribution scheme and

to levy affordable housing contributions. An amendment would be required to the HLEP2013 to allow contributions to be collected. Proceeding with the preparation of an affordable housing contribution scheme will be one of the options considered as part of the *Affordable Housing Discussion Paper*.

2. Affordable Rental Housing Target Scheme

Preparation of an Affordable Rental Housing Target Scheme is an action under the North District Plan. Affordable rental housing targets for low and very-low income households of between 5-10 percent of additional floor space, generated through a rezoning, is being further investigated under the *Hornsby Town Centre Review*. (Refer to 'Productive' chapter)

Our Key Workers

Key workers provide essential services and are an important part of an area's safety, vitality, sustainability and social diversity. Key workers include teachers, nurses, police, ambulance officers, fire and emergency workers. Key workers are affected by housing affordability, as they can be priced out of housing in the communities they service. They may be forced to rent longer or buy further away and face a long commute to work. The lack of affordable housing for key workers also affects business by impacting recruitment and retention, which then affects essential services.

In 2018, the *Key Worker Housing Affordability in Sydney* study prepared by the University of Sydney confirmed that high house prices and rents are pushing key workers out of the LGAs in which they serve. There are very few LGAs in Greater Sydney where the ratio of median purchase price to median key worker income is less than 5:1.

The same study found that North Sydney and Hornsby Shire had a net loss of 1.8 percent of key worker population in the 10 years between 2006 and 2016. In Hornsby Shire in 2011, the median house price was 9.5 times the earnings of a key worker. In 2018, this is closer to 16 times the earnings of a key worker.

As we look to the future, Hornsby will need a range of housing options that:

- Keep our key workers (nurses, police officers and fire fighters etc.) close to work and family;
- Provide access to housing options for people on low and moderate incomes, retaining social connections and access to services; and
- Provide additional housing choice and affordability for first home buyers and downsizers.

Our Local Infrastructure

Council has two development contributions plans, the *Hornsby Section 7.11 Development Contributions Plan 2014-2024* and *Hornsby Section 7.12 Development Contributions Plan 2014-2024*. Both plans provide for a range of local infrastructure and facilities including open space, trees, libraries and community centres, public domain and traffic improvements. The plans primarily receive development contributions from our Housing Strategy Precincts and aim to provide facilities that will serve both a Shire-wide and local function. This will ensure local infrastructure delivery aligns with the needs of our community and expected growth.

Some of the priority infrastructure under our current plans includes:

- Waitara Park – Destination Parkland;
- An extension to Hornsby Library;
- New Hornsby centralised community facility;
- Sportsground in Old Mans Valley;
- Improvements to a number of bushland trails;
- Finalisation of the Hornsby Shire Bike Plan;
- Hornsby Quarry Park; and
- Westleigh Park.

Our development contributions plans are currently being updated to reflect the loss of land south of the M2.

Waitara Park Playground



Our Heritage

Hornsby's heritage resources include significant sites of Aboriginal culture, as well as a diverse range of buildings, structures, places and landscape elements of natural archaeological significance. Council's first Heritage Study was prepared in the early 1990s, which subsequently established the heritage list under Schedule 5 of the HLEP2013, including heritage conservation areas and archaeological items.

Hornsby Shire contains 737 heritage items, 72 Archaeological Sites and 6 Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs) of local significance. There are 10 items listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.

Subsequent to the above Heritage Study, five staged studies and reviews of the Shire's heritage items and HCAs have been undertaken. These reviews have focused on specific issues or heritage items. There has not been a comprehensive heritage review undertaken since 1993.

Part 9 of the *Hornsby Development Control Plan 2013* (HDCP2013) provides guidance and outlines specific controls for development relating to heritage items and HCAs. The HDCP2013 came into force in 2013 and was informed by the *Hornsby Heritage Development Control Plan Review 2009*.

Conservation and celebration of our heritage will continue to be a key priority as parts of our Shire change over the next 20 years. We are preparing a *Comprehensive Heritage Study* that will provide us with a better understanding of our heritage and help guide future land use decisions. Phase 1 of the *Comprehensive Heritage Study* included the preparation of a heritage gap analysis and an action plan.

The *Hornsby Heritage Action Plan 2019* has now been completed and will inform the preparation of a brief for a future Comprehensive Heritage Study to commence in 2020. (Refer to Figure 16)

The key findings and recommendations of the *Hornsby Heritage Action Plan 2019* are:

- To prepare new and updated background studies on a range of matters including Aboriginal, archaeological and landscape heritage;
- To build on current processes and resources to improve ongoing community engagement, the promotion of heritage and conservation of heritage items and conservation areas in the Shire;
- To conduct a targeted review of planning controls, guidelines and potential listings within the HLEP2013 and HDCP2013;

- To update heritage inventory sheets for consistency and alignment with the State Heritage Inventory template; and
- To continue to train and equip council staff in current heritage legislation and management practices.

Council will be seeking input from the community to prioritise these actions to be taken forward as separate projects over the next few years.

Convict Trail Project

Council recognises the significance of the Great North Road built by convicts between 1826 and 1834, as a major transport route from Sydney to Newcastle. The road commences in the Five Dock area and traverses through Hornsby Shire on its western boundary for 46 kilometres, from the junction at Castle Hill Road to Wisemans Ferry.

The Convict Trail Project is a community-based organisation formed to conserve and promote the Great North Road. Council acknowledges and continues to support the ongoing efforts of the Convict Trail Project to protect, maintain and promote the significance of the Great North Road.



Figure 16 – Inputs into Hornsby Heritage Study 2020

Our Liveable Priorities and Actions

Our Liveable Priorities	Our Liveable Actions	Timing	Alignment	
			Hornsby Community Strategic Plan	North District Plan
LP1. Protecting the character of our low density neighbourhoods.	LA1. Continue with a concentrated housing model in existing housing precincts as identified in Figure 15.	Immediate	FA2 FA3 FA4	N5 Action 17 Action 18
	LA2. Focus future housing opportunities in the Hornsby Town Centre.	Immediate		
	LA3. Council continue to advocate for changes to State policy for medium density housing to enable Council to progress its own strategy that reflects local character.	Ongoing		N6 Action 19a-e
	LA4. If Council is provided the option to prepare local controls for medium density housing that are reflective of the landscape setting of the Shire, investigations could commence into appropriate expansion of the R3 Medium Density zone.	Ongoing		
LP2. Promoting design excellence for new housing including having regard to the principles of ecologically sustainable development and universal design.	LA5. Prepare and adopt the Design Excellence Planning Proposal and forward to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for a Gateway Determination.	Immediate	FA2 FA3 FA4	N6 Action 19a-e
	LA6. Work with the State Government to make changes to State Environmental Planning Policies and Design Guides for the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code and Apartment Design Guide.	Ongoing		
LP3. Supporting the development of community and cultural facilities that will adequately service our current and future community.	LA7. Investigate value sharing models and options that can deliver social infrastructure and other community benefits.	Immediate	FA2 FA4	N3 Action 9 Action 10
	LA8. Finalise the update of the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan.	Immediate		
LP4. Aligning the delivery of local infrastructure and public domain improvements with current and future growth.	LA9. Finalise Public Domain Guidelines and Signage Strategy.	Immediate	FA2 FA4	N1 Action 3
	LA10. Finalise the Hornsby 7.12 Development Contributions Plan 2019-2029.	Immediate		
	LA11. Finalise the draft Hornsby 7.11 Development Contributions Plan 2019-2029 for public exhibition.	Immediate		
LP5. Protecting, conserving and promoting our natural, built and cultural heritage.	LA12. Prioritise and adopt recommendations from the Hornsby Heritage Action Plan 2019.	Immediate	FA1 FA3 FA4	N6 Action 21
	LA13. Develop consultant brief for the Comprehensive Heritage Study based on the findings of Action LA10.	Immediate		
	LA14. Undertake the tasks to complete Hornsby Comprehensive Heritage Study.	Immediate		

			Alignment	
Our Liveable Priorities	Our Liveable Actions	Timing	Hornsby Community Strategic Plan	North District Plan
LP6. Providing housing in the right locations that meets the needs of our community with regard to housing type and mix, design, sustainability, affordability and safety.	LA15. Finalise the Hornsby Town Centre Review and incorporate relevant findings and recommendations into a future update to the Hornsby Local Housing Strategy.	Immediate	FA3 FA4	N5 Action 17
	LA16. Finalise an update to the Hornsby Local Housing Strategy including a local character statement for public exhibition.	Immediate		
	LA17. Prioritise the findings and recommendations from the Affordable Housing Discussion Paper including the preparation of an affordable rental housing scheme under SEPP 70.	Immediate		
	LA18. Work with the Rural Fire Service to support protection of life and property with no additional density increases north of Yirra Road, Mount Colah until the RFS has developed a Bushfire Risk Evaluation Model and Management Planning for the Shire and confirmed its position regarding development north of Yirra Road.	Ongoing		
LP7. Promoting the arts, creative industries and temporary uses as well as the night-time economy.	LA19. Consider the potential for the night-time economy in the Hornsby Town Centre Review, Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, Pennant Hills Place Plan and other opportunities across the Shire.	Immediate	FA2 FA11	N10 Action 43

Legend

Immediate – Current Delivery Program (2019-2021)

Short Term – Next Delivery Program (2021-2025)

Medium Term – Delivery Program (2025-2029)

Long Term – Beyond 2029

Sustainable

“

As custodians of our environment, we will protect and enhance our Shire.”

This chapter highlights the sustainable aspects of Hornsby Shire, current community priorities and our vision. It outlines priorities and actions that will protect and enhance our sustainability over the next 20 years, with specific focus on:

- Our Response to Climate Change;
- Our Emissions;
- Our Waste;
- Our Urban Heat and Vulnerability;
- Our Green Grid;
- Our Urban Forest;
- Our Biodiversity;
- Our Open Spaces;
- Our Waterways;
- Our Water and Wastewater Infrastructure;
- Our Hazards and Resilience
- Our Rural Areas; and
- Our Scenic and Cultural Landscapes.

North District Plan Directions

A city in its landscape	An efficient city	A resilient city
Valuing green spaces and landscape	Using resources wisely	Adapting to a changing world
		

Our Community Priorities

- 1.1** The local surroundings are protected and enhanced
- 1.2** People in Hornsby Shire support recycling and sustainability initiatives
- 1.3** The Shire is resilient and able to respond to climate change events and stresses

(Hornsby Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028)

Introduction

Our natural environment is one of the hallmarks of Hornsby Shire. We are known as the “Bushland Shire,” not only for our abundant bushland but for the biodiversity in flora and fauna, waterways and rural areas. Hornsby Shire’s natural environment plays a vital role, not only for the Hornsby community but also for the region and Greater Sydney.

Our bushland and waterways act as a natural constraint for urban development, with bushland covering over 2000 hectares of our Shire.

(Refer to Figure 11 – Hornsby Structure Plan)

There are many issues facing Hornsby which have potential consequences for the ongoing health of our natural environment, ecosystems and community wellbeing. In recognition of the critical and life-giving role our natural environment provides to our community we have committed to an ambitious and wide-ranging set of priorities aimed at tackling some of the current and emerging issues. A significant portion of these priorities and work currently underway will feed into the preparation of an overarching *Environmental Sustainability Strategy*, addressing all aspects of our natural and built environment.

Extensive engagement undertaken with our community for the current *Community Strategic Plan* and as part of the development of the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy* illustrates that our community is supportive of sustainability initiatives, wants to ensure that local surrounds are protected and enhanced and that the Shire is resilient and able to respond to climate change events and stresses.

The community has a strong preference for maintaining and enhancing a clean, leafy, diverse environment that actively seeks ways to improve environmental sustainability.

Our Response to Climate Change

Climate change has begun to have measurable impacts on many communities around the globe and affects a large number of people and ecosystems. Current climate projections for the Shire indicate warmer and drier conditions with more frequent droughts and bushfires. Extreme weather events such as storms, heavy rainfall and hot days are projected to become more frequent and severe over the next 20 years.

We continue to implement the strategies and actions of our *Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Plan (2009)* and our residents have advised that they want the impacts of climate change to continue to be addressed. In response to their concerns, Council is updating our *Climate Change Adaptation Plan* to reflect the best available science and to be in-line with State and Federal commitments on emission reduction. In this regard, Council has committed to Net Zero Emissions by 2050 within a financially sustainable framework and is ready to assist both the State and Federal Governments to meet their targets.

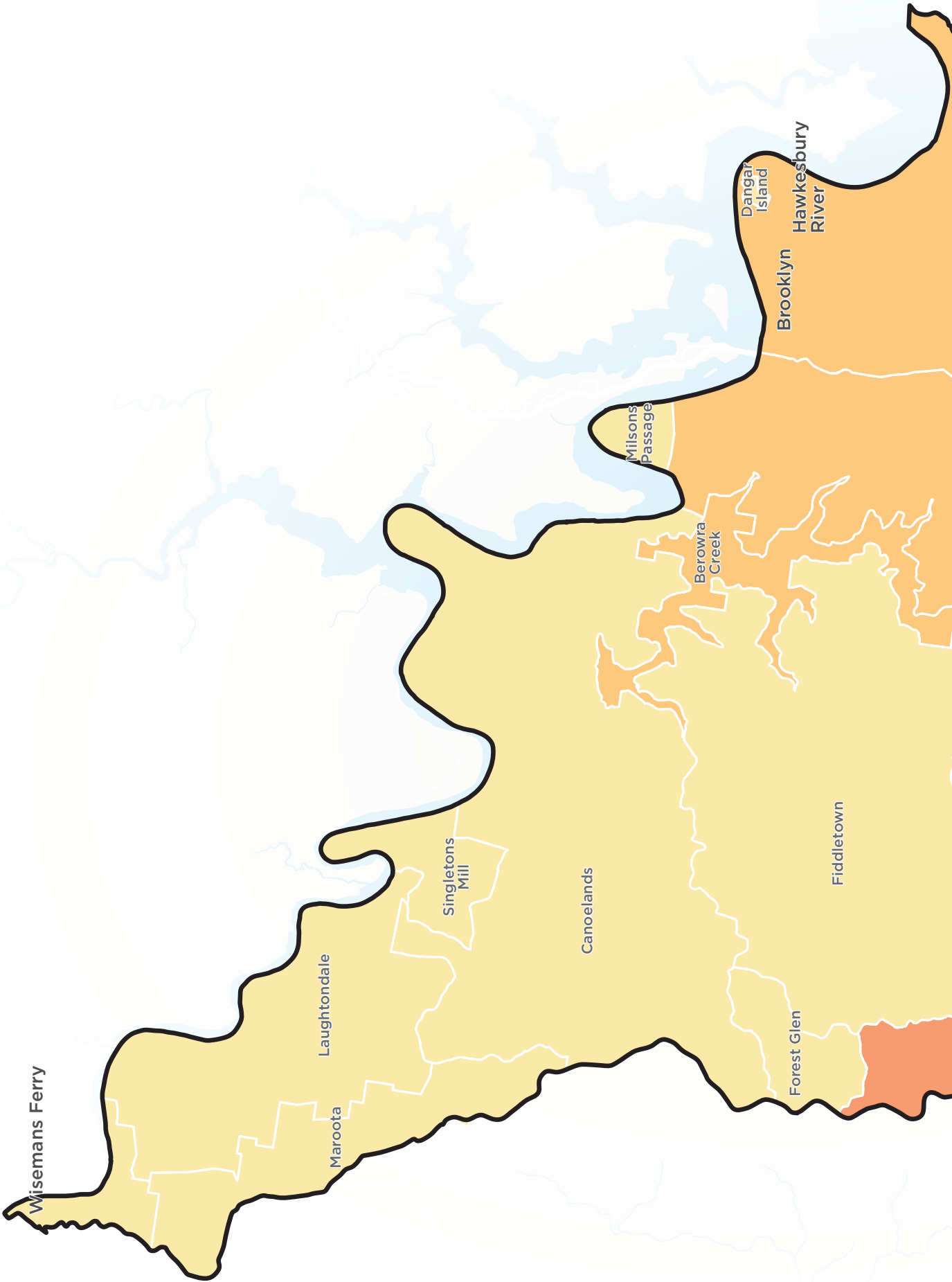
As an active member of the Resilient Cities program and the development of ‘Resilient Sydney’, the first resilience strategy for Metropolitan Sydney, we are well positioned to develop Hornsby-specific strategies and actions that align with the call to work as one city to strengthen our ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of climate shocks and stresses.

Our vision for the current and future community includes improving the wellbeing of residents and businesses in the Shire, promoting sustainability and resilient design in our planning strategies, and protecting our vulnerable communities from the detrimental health effects associated with extreme weather.

A *Climate Change Adaptation Plan* is currently being prepared which will identify and quantify the potential climate change impacts on the natural and built environments of the Shire, adopting best practice risk management approaches.

Our Emissions

Improving our energy and water efficiency – and reducing our greenhouse emissions footprint – will become an increasingly important priority for our land use over the next 20 years. Our current emissions profile for 2016/17 across the Shire identifies that we produce 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions each year. (Resilient Sydney, 2019 www.resilientsydney.com.au) The distribution of emissions across the Shire varies and is closely related to the densification of areas. (Refer to Figure 17 and 18)



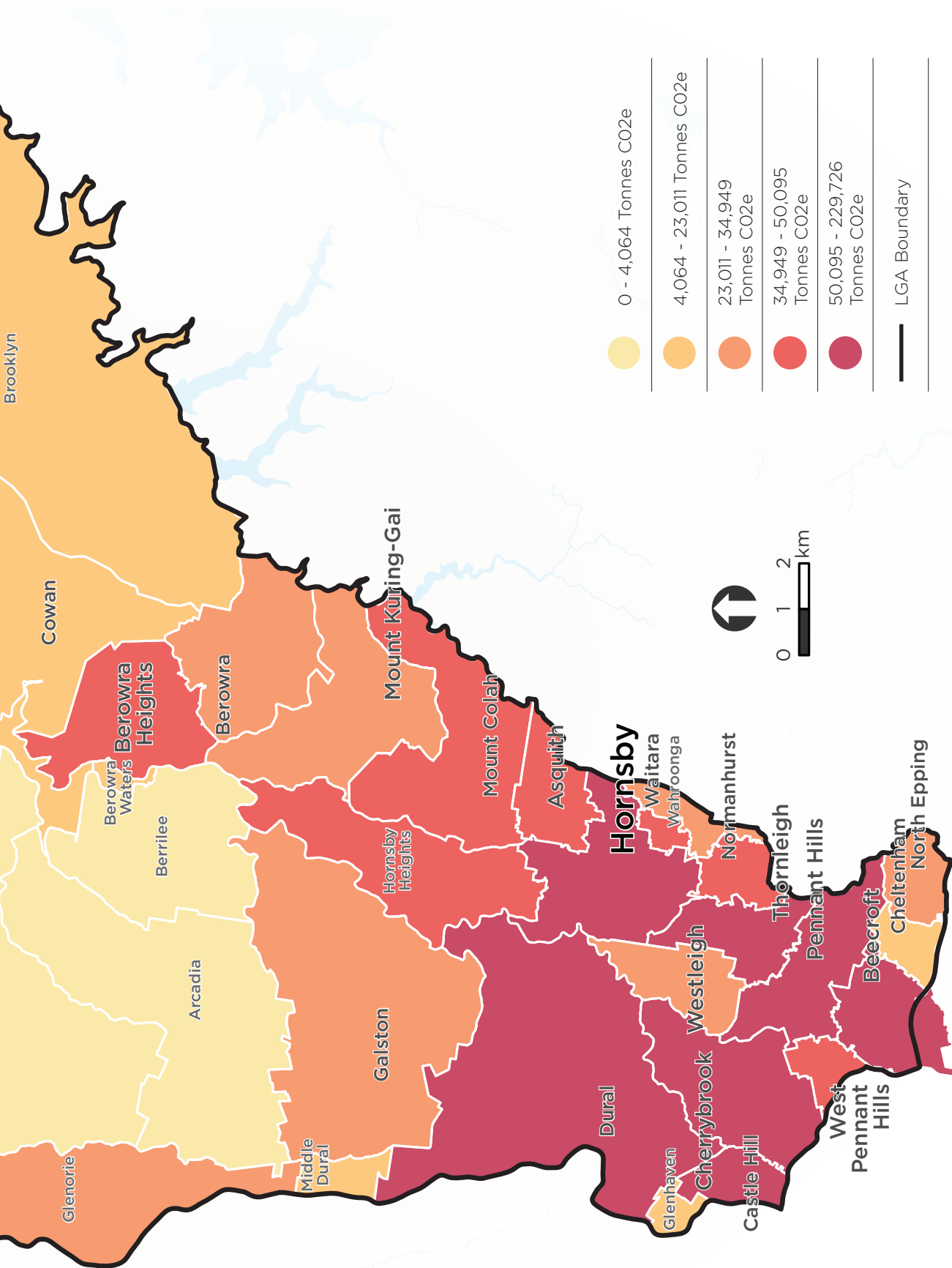
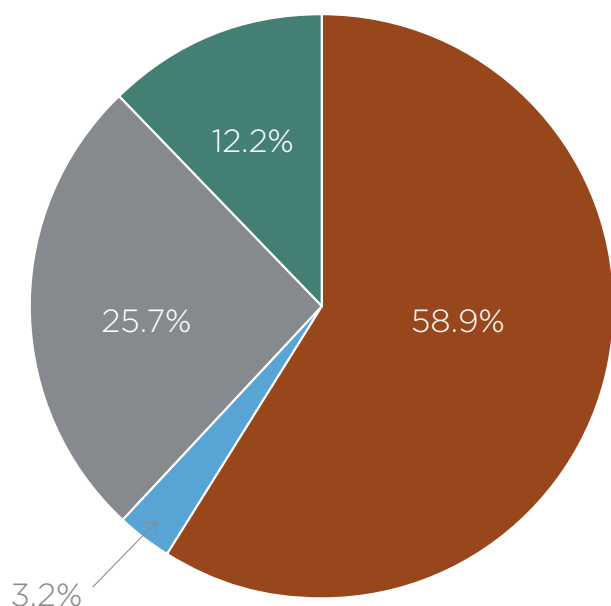


Figure 17 – Community Emissions Profile Map

There is support from all levels of Government for action on climate change. Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris Agreement), which seeks to hold the increase in global average temperature to 2 degrees Celsius or less. The Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target directs that 23.5 percent of Australia's electrical generation will be from renewable sources by 2020. The NSW Climate Change Policy Framework commits to a target of net zero emissions by 2050 and together NSW will be more resilient to a changing climate.



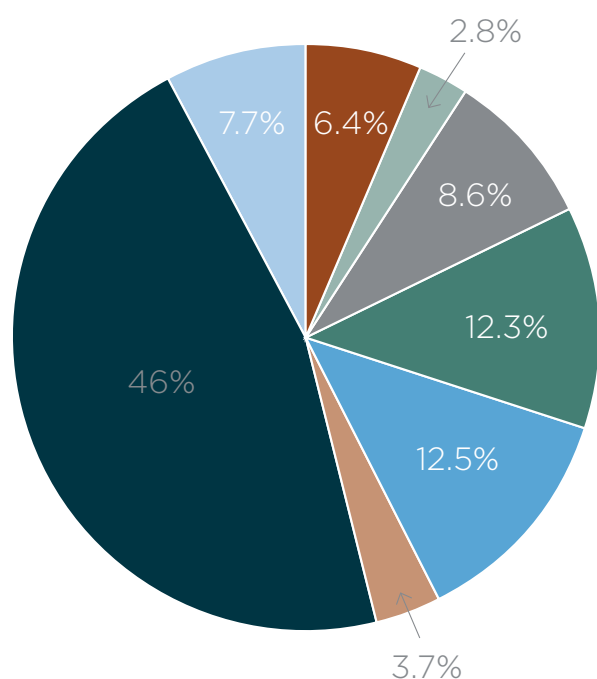
All Emissions by Source 2016/17



All Emissions by Source 2016-17

Source	%	Tonnes CO2-e
Electricity	58.9	763,605
Transport	25.7	333,488
Waste	12.2	158,004
Gas	3.2	41,463

All Emissions by Sector 2016-17



All Energy Use by Sector 2016-17

Sector	%	Energy (MJ)
Residential - Detached	46	1,612,681,485
Non-Residential - Retail	12.5	439,776,118
Non-Residential - Industrial	12.3	432,672,784
Non-Residential - Health	8.6	3,016,960
Residential - Multi-unit	7.7	26,928,870
Non-Residential - Commercial	6.4	225,687,201
Residential - Attached	3.7	128,245,522
Non-Residential - Education	2.8	98,011,829

Figure 18 – All Emissions by Source and Sector 2016-17

Source: Resilient Sydney, 2019, Resilient Sydney Strategy: www.resilientsydney.com.au

In partnership with our community and with other levels of government and regional entities, Council will continue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of renewable energy to achieve Net Zero Emissions by 2050. Within Hornsby Shire, approximately 14 percent of households have renewable energy in the form of roof top photovoltaic (solar) systems.

We have adopted a *Sustainable Energy for New Council Assets Policy (2018)* to integrate sustainable energy and water management principles into the planning, design, construction and purchase of all new and refurbished Council assets that consume energy. One of the objectives of the policy is to assist Council to achieve a cap on corporate total greenhouse gas emissions of 7,070 tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2019/2020 representing a 30 percent reduction below 1995/96 emission levels. We are aware that new ambitious targets for 2030 and 2050 are required to hold the increase in global average temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius or less and as such Council has adopted a target of Net Zero Emissions by 2050.

Looking ahead, we want to achieve significant ground in reducing our greenhouse emissions footprint. With the expected changes to come in the Hornsby Town Centre, we recognise there is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to embed industry-leading sustainability objectives into its revitalisation. Improved building efficiency, building and precinct scale renewables, increased use of public transport, car sharing, infrastructure and design for electric and shared autonomous vehicles and waste diversion from landfill are all opportunities to be explored through the *Hornsby Town Centre Review* (Refer to 'Productive' chapter) and the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy*.



Carrs Bush

Our Waste

Waste is one of the most important issues on a local, regional and national scale. Waste and recycling are an essential service and have the potential to impact on the safety, health, amenity and wellbeing of our community.

Currently 12.2 percent of our Shire's emissions come from waste. At present 44 percent of residential waste in the Shire is diverted from landfill. We are committed to increasing this towards the NSW State Government's resource recovery target of 70 percent. This will be achieved by targeting food and other organics for composting, processing our bulky clean-up service waste and improving diversion of e-waste, unwanted clothing and mattresses.

Our waste outcomes will continue to be safe, efficient and cost effective. We will maximise recycling and contribute to the built form and liveability of our community. To achieve this we need well-planned waste infrastructure that is responsive to future needs, and provides equitable access to waste, reuse and recycling services. It will be critical for all Sydney Metro councils to identify and invest in suitable lands for the development of waste infrastructure to deliver these essential waste services.

We are currently preparing a new *Waste Strategy* to assist in guiding the future direction and objectives for waste management in Hornsby Shire. Future inclusion of new waste clauses for the LEP and DCP is also being considered with the potential to adopt new requirements that will better address some of the planning related waste issues facing the Shire. Council currently has a regional community recycling centre located at Chilvers Rd Thornleigh and a waste management facility located at Beaumont Road Mt Kuring-gai.

Our Urban Heat and Heat Vulnerability

Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect describes the tendency of cities to be much hotter than surrounding rural areas. Many communities across NSW, particularly those in urban areas and town centres, are being exposed to increasing heatwave conditions, with average maximum temperatures several degrees warmer than adjacent rural areas.

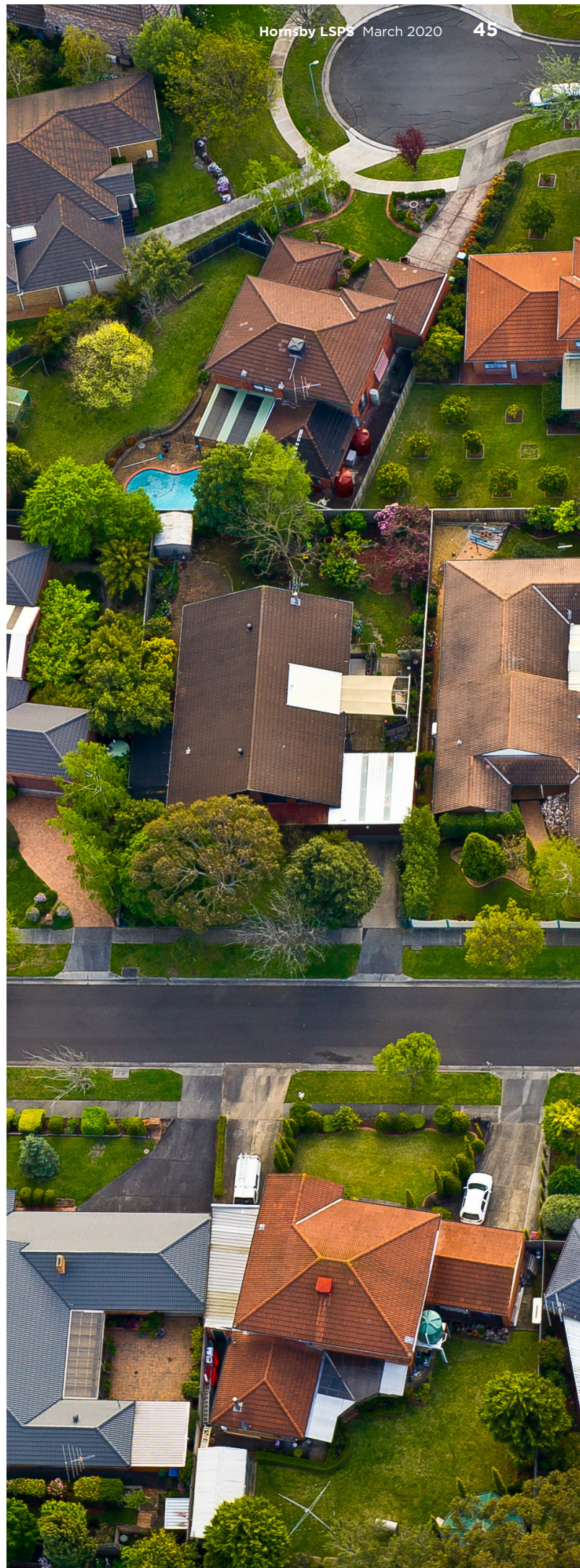
UHI effect is expected to increase in Sydney as urban development continues and temperatures increase with climate change including strategies that will achieve well-designed and correctly positioned shade. Heatwaves kill more Australians each year than any other natural disaster. They place considerable stress on the natural environment, particularly plants and animals.

Future development planned for Hornsby to accommodate our growing population, jobs and housing has the potential to lead to further increases in urban temperatures. Urban renewal areas will see intensification of land uses and hard surfaces, both horizontally and vertically.

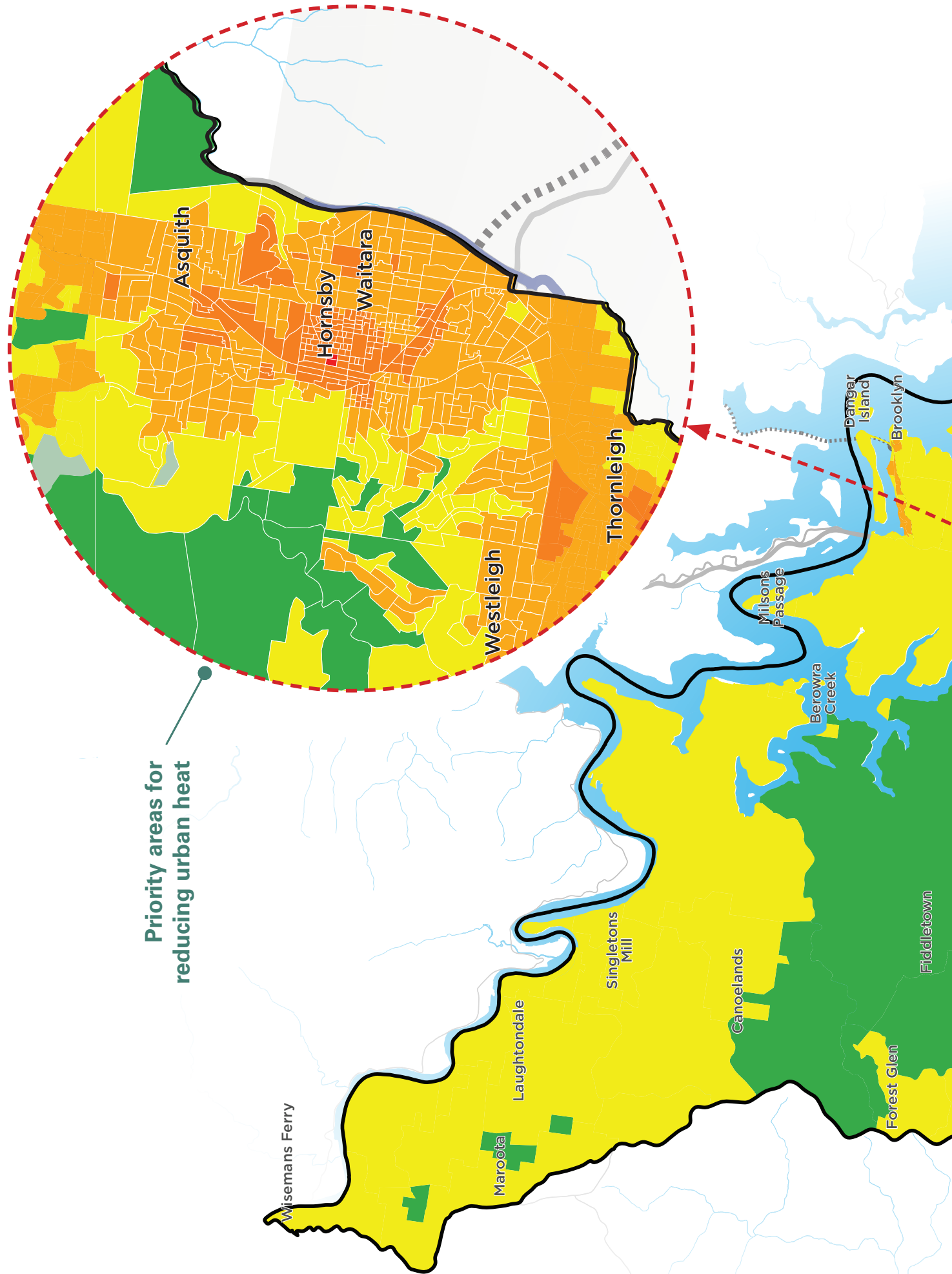
Resilient Sydney - A Strategy for City Resilience 2018 identifies extreme heat as Sydney's biggest risk. Vulnerable populations are more susceptible to the effects of heatwaves. Heatwaves also increase the demands for energy, water and health services.

Urban heat mapping of Hornsby Shire undertaken by the then NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, identifies areas that are currently experiencing temperature increases between 3-9 degrees above areas that are undeveloped and vegetated. The mapping also identifies areas that are more vulnerable to the impacts of heat. (Refer to Figures 19 and 20)

Mapping the heat vulnerability of our Shire will help us to prioritise appropriate strategies and actions in the sections of our community that are at highest risk of the impacts of heat.



Urban Heat



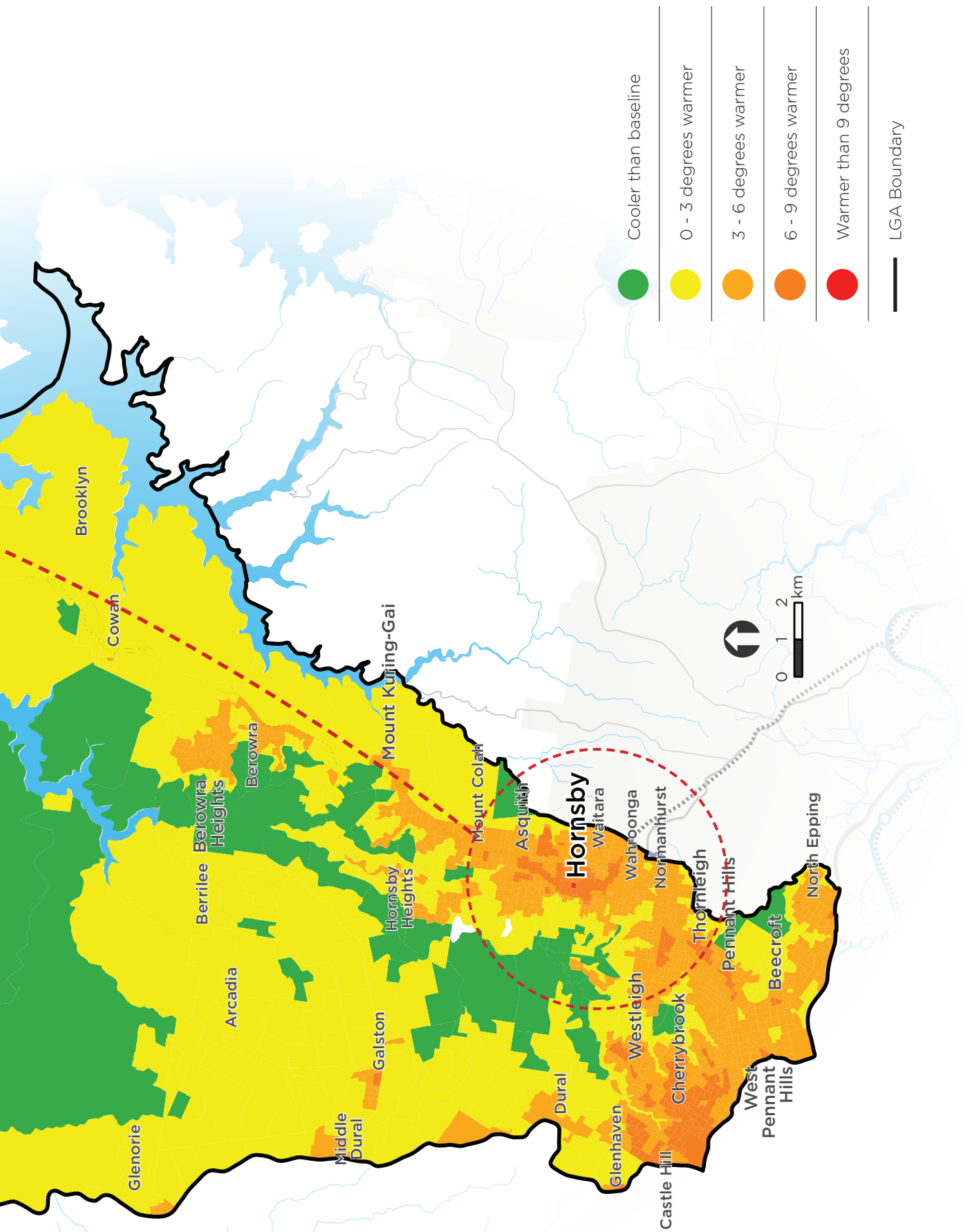
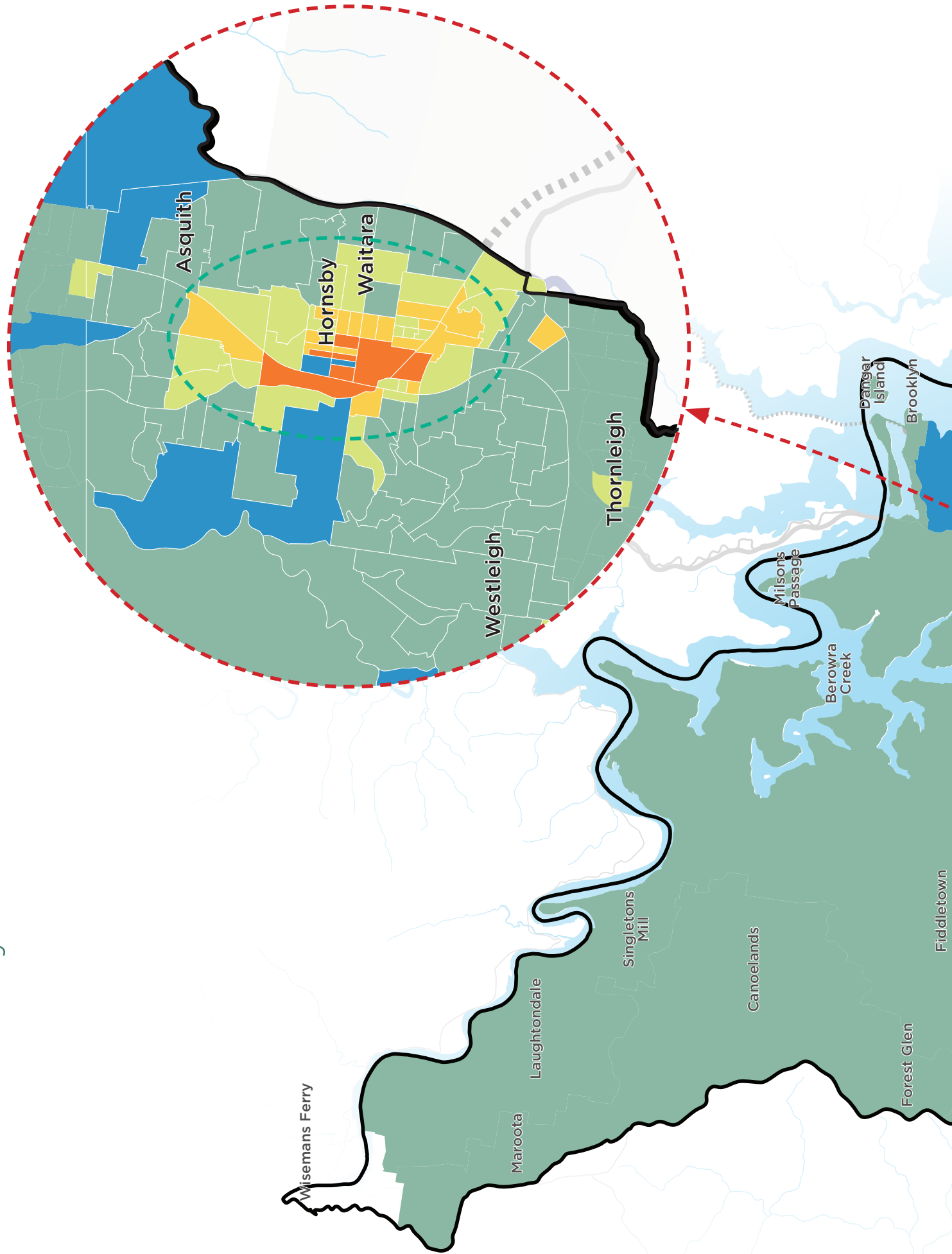


Figure 19 – Urban Heat effect in Hornsby Town Centre and surrounding areas.



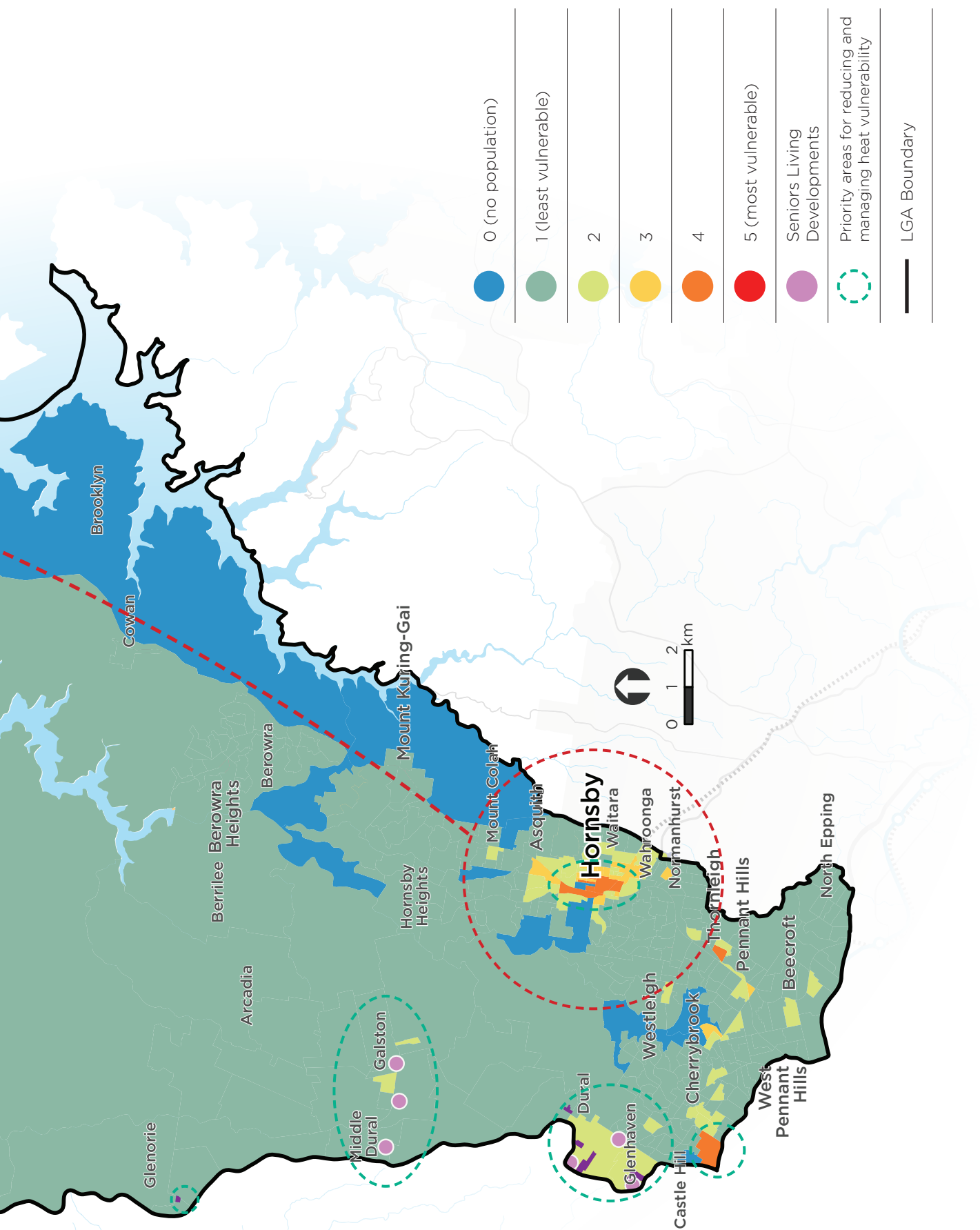


Figure 20 – Heat Vulnerability in Hornsby Town Centre



Minimising the effects of UHI within our Shire will improve the well-being of our residents, businesses and visitors. Our priority is protecting the most vulnerable parts of our community and rehabilitating some of the current “hot spots”. (Refer to Figure 20)

We will investigate a range of opportunities to reduce and reverse the UHI effect in these areas in the short term. We will also develop a range of strategies for the Shire, such as increasing our urban forest and implementing water sensitive urban design, as part of the broader *Environmental Sustainability Strategy* and the *Hornsby Town Centre Review*. Our Shire will be a place where our residents feel comfortable year round in our urban environment, while our public spaces and homes will be designed to reduce urban heat and to increase protection from UV radiation.

Our Green Grid

Hornsby Shire is surrounded by natural landscapes and has many regional and local walking trails. We are in an ideal position to provide stronger connections between our green spaces and Greater Sydney. With the Great North Walk identified as one of the priority links within the Sydney Green Grid network, we want to improve its accessibility from our train stations and centres.

Rehabilitation of Hornsby Quarry and its transformation into Hornsby Parkland is well underway and provides a unique opportunity to identify additional links from the Hornsby Town Centre to Berowra Valley as an expansion of our bushland trails and the Green Grid.

Our ability to build on and enhance the Green Grid is an exciting opportunity. The above links, along with other future upgrades to our current walking and trails network, will be identified in our *Walking and Cycling Strategy*. Additional information relating to our *Walking and Cycling Strategy* is detailed in the ‘Productive’ chapter.

The Government Architect’s Office has also identified Pennant Hills Road as an opportunity project for the Green Grid. Further investigation of the opportunities for the Pennant Hills Road corridor from Thornleigh to Pennant Hills will commence following the opening of NorthConnex in 2020.

Our Urban Forest

Our urban forest is important to the Shire’s liveability, community health and wellbeing. It is also significant to our biodiversity, landscape character, amenity and in its role in protecting us from UV radiation. Our community has highlighted the importance of our natural environment and their desire for it to be protected and well managed.

Mapping prepared by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW OEH) identifies the extent of tree canopy cover throughout the Shire. (Refer to Figure 21)

Despite this high community value, the *2020 Vision - ‘Where should all the trees go?’* report prepared by RMIT University identified Hornsby as having a significant decline in canopy cover between 2009-2016. Annual urban tree canopy loss in the Shire has been estimated at an average of 2.5 percent of total canopy.

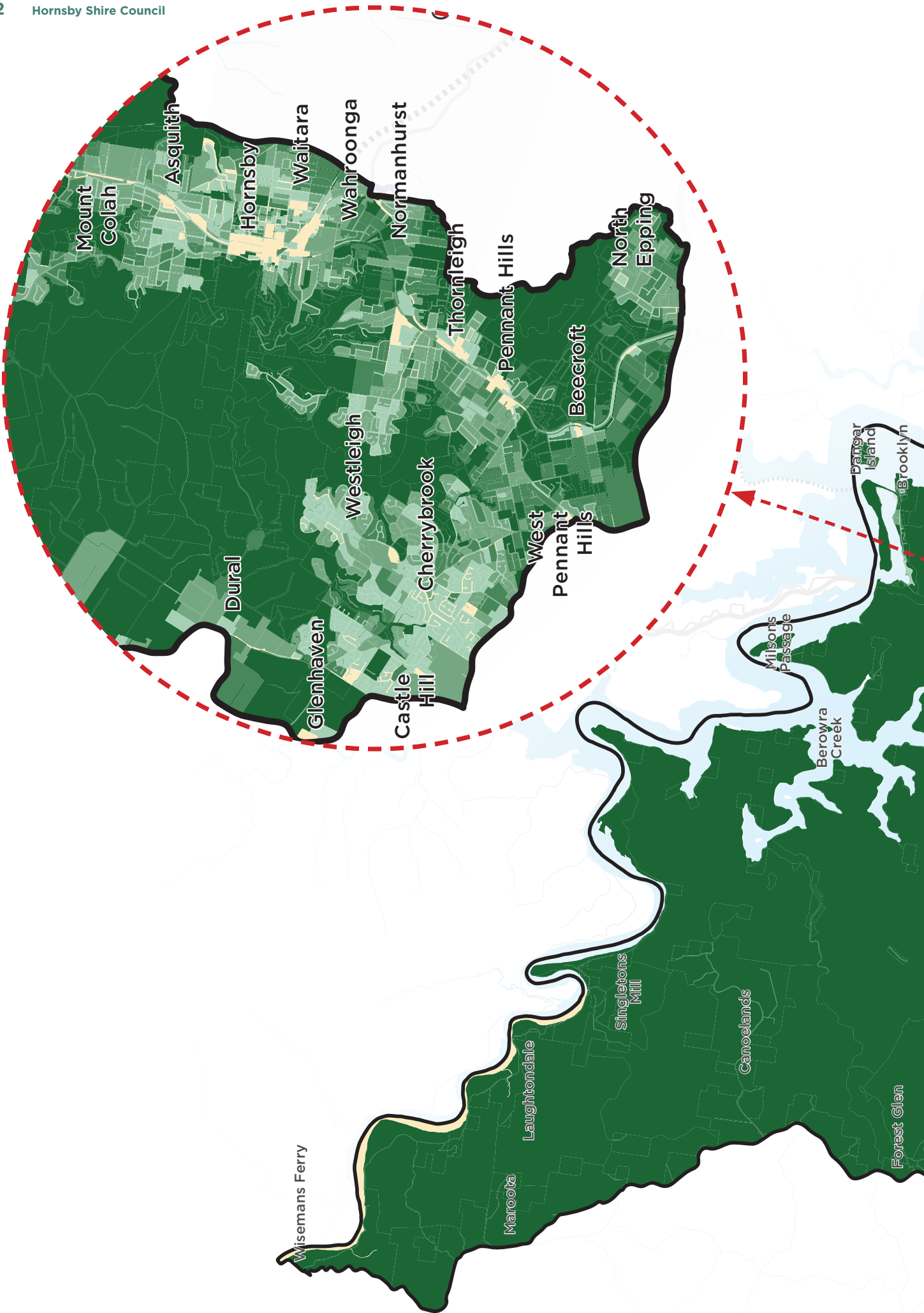
Council-led research confirms that if tree canopy loss continues at the current rate there will be no tree cover left in approximately 37 years. We know that tree loss is predominantly occurring on private residential land.

25,000 Trees

Our immediate response is the commitment to planting 25,000 trees by September 2020 to expand the urban tree canopy and invest in the environment for future generations. We believe that additional measures need to be adopted for Hornsby Shire to be a leader in integrated urban forest planting, monitoring and management. Our vision is to embrace the protection of our urban forest and bushland as a core value and guiding principle for every land use decision we make. This will include consideration of the broader long-term needs of our future community, including liveability, health and wellbeing, and resilience.

We recognise that the urban forest forms a critical part of our planning over the next 20 years. An *Urban Forest Strategy* is being prepared to complement the ‘25,000 trees by 2020’ initiative which will help identify a Green Grid for Hornsby Shire. It nominates the best trees in the right locations and seeks to protect and enhance the urban tree canopy and ecology of the Shire. Connections into the established Green Grid for Greater Sydney will also be identified, together with important local ecological corridors mapped as part of the updated *Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan*.

The *Urban Forest Strategy* will positively influence many aspects of Hornsby’s future, including water quality, urban design, planning policy, active transport, biodiversity and climate change adaptation and shade for protection from UV radiation.



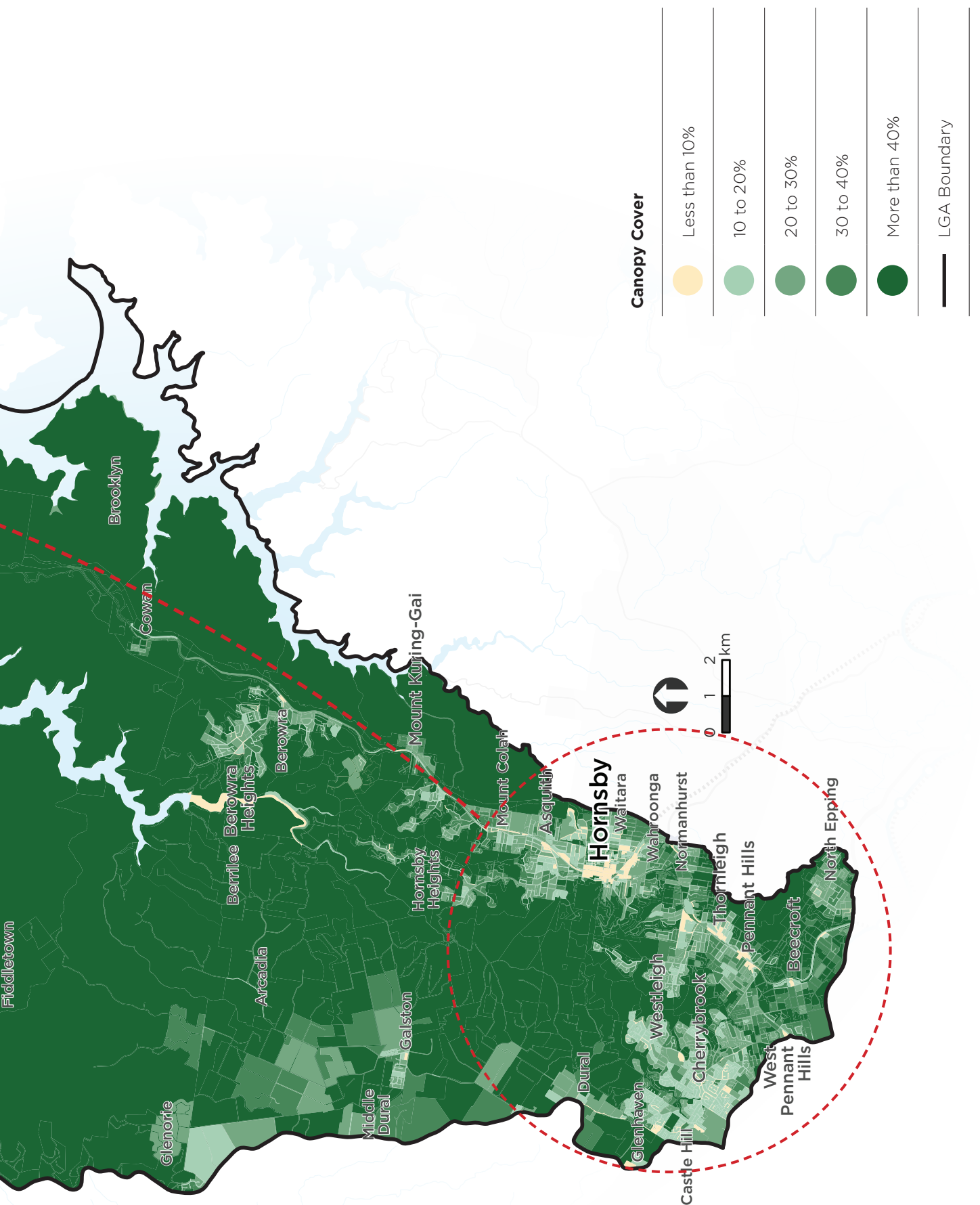


Figure 21 – Tree canopy cover



Silvereye Zosterops - lateralis - eating solanum

Our Biodiversity

Hornsby's natural environment has unique biodiversity values due to its position within Greater Sydney. Protecting our native flora and fauna through the conservation of their habitats is critical to the ongoing sustainability of our community and natural environment. The biodiversity map (Refer to Figure 22) highlights the extent of these values and the diversity of biodiversity that are important for protection for future generations.

Hornsby Shire contains a diverse array of landscapes with significant conservation values and hosts a range of endemic flora, fauna and invertebrates – many of which are threatened. The Shire has over 1,000 native plant species and 388 native animal species¹. Our current *Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan (2006)* (BCMP) lists 26 plant species and 42 animal species as threatened; new and previously unrecorded threatened species have more recently been identified within the Shire. The Shire also contains these Threatened Ecological Communities:

- Blue Gum High Forest – critically endangered with only 2 percent of its original extent remaining, of which 25 percent occurs in Hornsby Shire, including the last remaining patch on diatreme soils
- Duffys Forest
- Shale/Sandstone Transition Forest
- Sydney Turpentine – Ironbark Forest – less than 5 percent of its original extent remaining of which 25 percent occurs in Hornsby Shire
- River-flat Eucalypt Forest
- Coastal Saltmarsh
- Swamp Oak Floodplain Forest
- Swamp Sclerophyll Forest on Coastal Floodplains
- Freshwater Wetlands on Coastal Floodplains
- Cumberland Plain Woodland
- Coastal Upland Swamp
- Shale Gravel Transition Forest

Some of the key objectives of the current BCMP include the following:

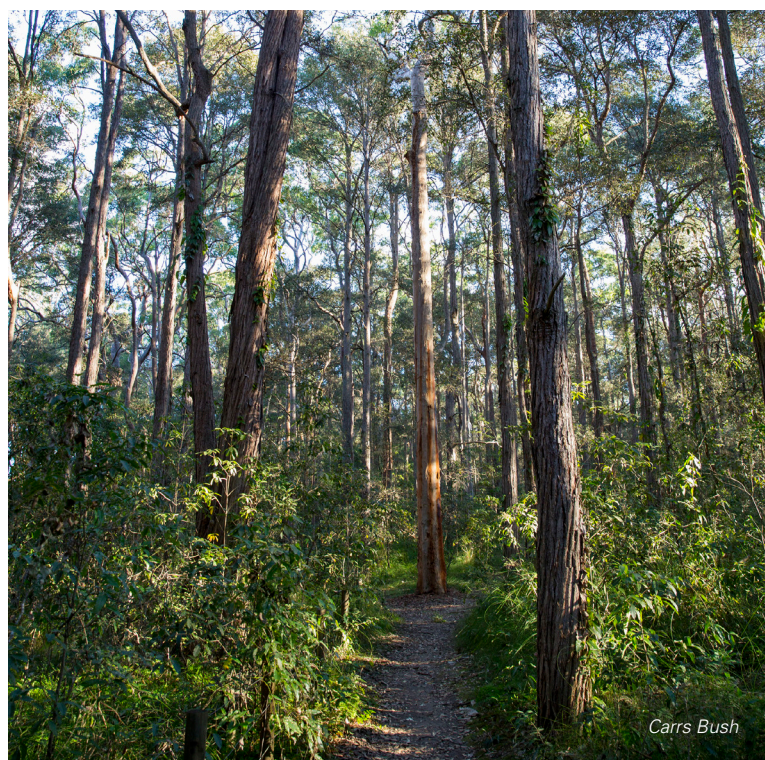
- To achieve net improvement of existing indigenous vegetation and habitats in Hornsby Shire.
- To ensure environmental planning instruments and process provide a strategic approach to achieving biodiversity conservation outcomes.

¹ not including invertebrate and aquatic species.

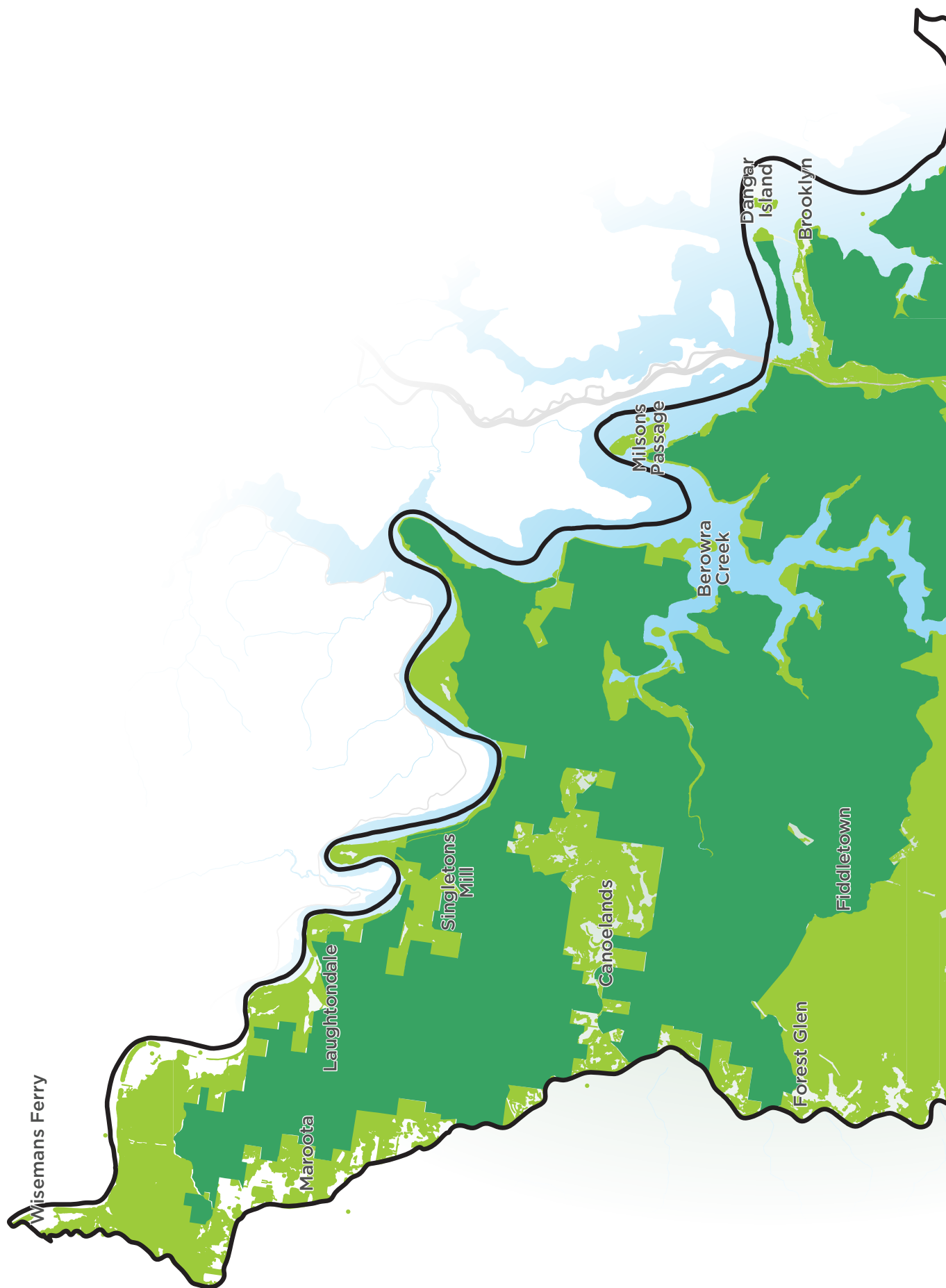
- To maintain and improve the management of biodiversity within publicly owned land in Hornsby.
- To effectively mitigate threats to conserving biodiversity in Hornsby.
- To conserve and re-create connectivity across fragmented landscapes.

The protection of biodiversity provides environmental, social and economic benefits. Our current BCMP is being updated to reflect changes in vegetation cover, environmental policy and legislation.

With reductions in vegetation extent and the number of species at a global scale, Council understands that it is important to have a strong local policy response to address local biodiversity loss. To address biodiversity loss at a local scale, we are seeking to develop a long-term plan that will provide clear strategic direction for future land use incorporating some principles of biodiversity. The draft updated BCMP seeks to build on the ongoing conservation works undertaken at over 115 sites throughout Hornsby LGA. The draft BCMP proposes a Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF) to develop ecological networks at a range of scales linking these sites and other habitat, conserving existing and creating new corridors. The draft BCMP Action Plan specifically identifies strategies, actions and tasks that inform and support the GIF including improved planning controls, restoration and conservation works and community education and engagement.



Carrs Bush



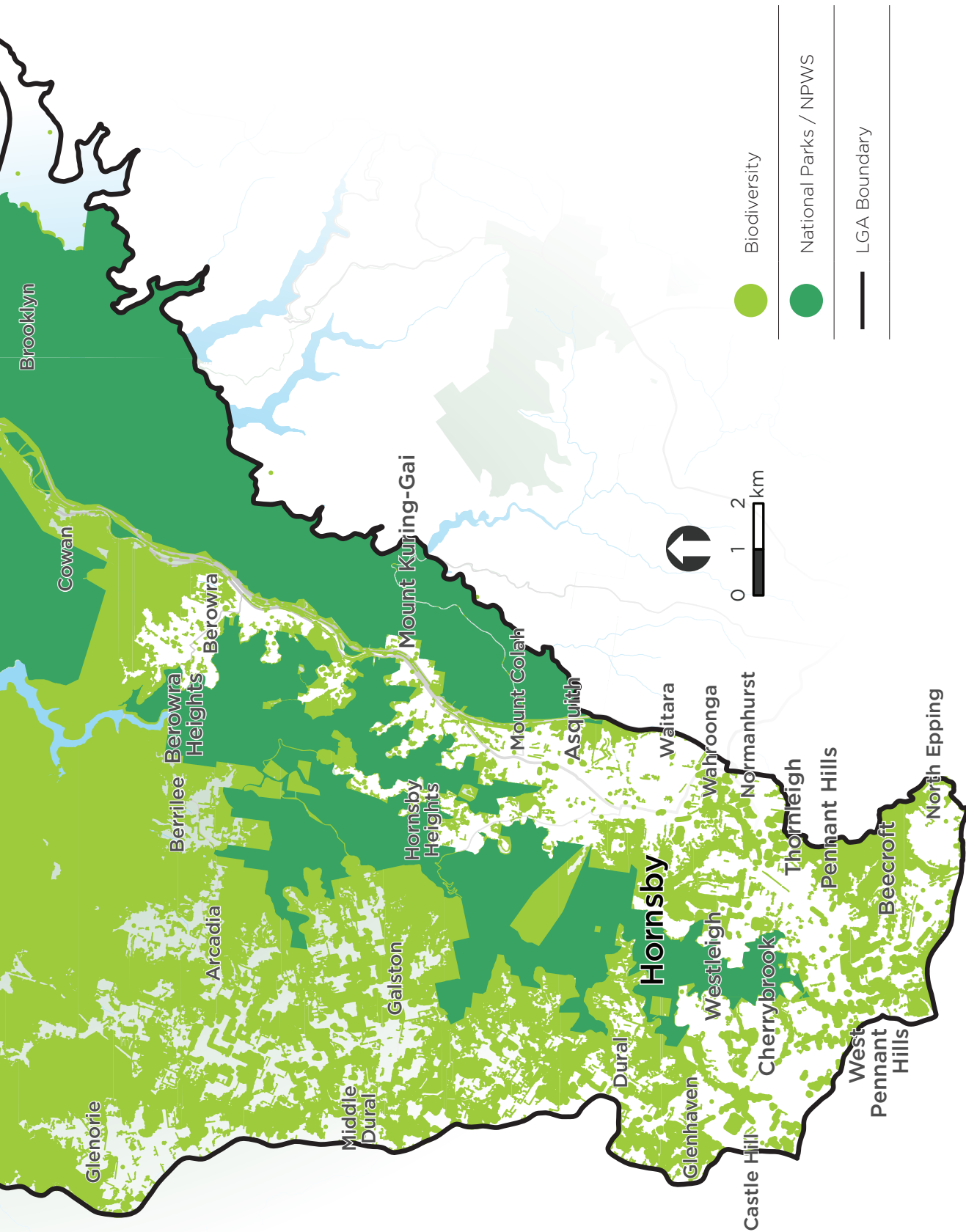


Figure 22 – Biodiversity Map

Our Open Spaces

Our open spaces, parks, playgrounds, sportsgrounds and bushland provide our community with the opportunity to relax, recreate and exercise.

Our need for better open space infrastructure to meet current and future demand continues to be a priority for our community. Whilst our current open space network is extensive we know that more can be done to improve its capacity and quality and to provide new, innovative and inclusive spaces for all forms of recreation.

The Active Living Hornsby Strategy 2016 (ALHS) provides strategic guidance for the open space and recreation facility network throughout the Shire and includes an understanding of the values, needs and aspirations of the Hornsby Shire community with regards to open space and recreation provision. The ALHS identifies the open space setting types within the Shire and describes the various qualities of the open space, including:

- Natural areas and bushland
- Parkland
- Outdoor sports
- Civic and urban spaces
- Conservation and heritage area
- River foreshore, and
- Creeks and wetlands

The main principle included in the ALHS is the approach of a *city in the bush* and includes the following key strategies:

- Drawing on the Shire's unique environment
- Making open space network part of daily life
- Responding to the Shire's diverse lifestyles
- Promoting walking and cycling
- Adapting to a changing sports environment
- Planning for the next generations

The ALHS maps the distribution of open space and identifies open space within 400m and 200m of residents. Due to the steep topography of the Shire, the long lineal ridgetop development pattern of many suburbs and transport barriers such as rail lines and main roads, there are some areas where there is a gap in distribution of open space. (Refer to figure 23 and 24) The ALHS recommends increasing accessibility and overcoming barriers by improving walking and cycling access to local parks. This will be incorporated into our Walking and Cycling Plan.

One of the key actions of the ALHS includes the development of a Play Plan to assess our current playground facilities while also providing strategic guidelines for the classification, distribution, funding and management of public play facilities.

Our vision for our public play facilities over the next 20 years is to provide high quality spaces where people come together through play. To this end, we will aim to provide an equitable and sustainable distribution of play experiences across the Shire and ensure inclusive play experiences are embedded in playground design and provision. Our Shire will be known for our contemporary play spaces that can be shared by all users regardless of age, culture or ability.

The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) Regional Sportsground Strategy Review 2017 identifies that there is currently a shortage of sportsgrounds in the NSROC region and the shortfall of grounds to meet potential demand will be worse by 2036. The ability for Councils to address this supply gap is limited by funds, availability of suitable land, increasing demand and high property prices. NSROC will continue to work with the State Government to seek support to help address the shortfall in the supply and capacity of sportsgrounds in the region.

The Review identifies that Hornsby Shire is expected to accommodate most of the supply over the next 20 years. Hornsby Council is currently working on major open space projects at Hornsby Quarry and Westleigh Park to assist addressing the undersupply of land for recreational facilities.

The Hornsby Sportsground Strategy 2018 (Strategy) follows on from the NSROC strategy and identified that there are approximately 20,000 registered sport participants that utilise facilities in the Shire each year with this number expected to rise in future years. This use results in nearly half of all Council sportsgrounds assessed as over capacity for sustainable use and a further quarter of grounds either at or within 10 percent of capacity of sustainable use.

The Strategy identifies that to address shortfalls in provision of sportsground facilities in the future, there are several opportunities for increasing the capacity of sportsgrounds through improvements to existing facilities and development of new sites. Improvements to facilities include:

- Increasing the carrying capacity of existing sportsgrounds through lighting and drainage improvements
- Investigation of additional synthetic fields
- Acquiring and developing additional land for new sportsground sites
- Partnerships with schools and other institutions
- Well-designed and correctly positioned shade facilities to assist in protection from UV radiation.

Residential Areas for open space investigations and shared use of school grounds

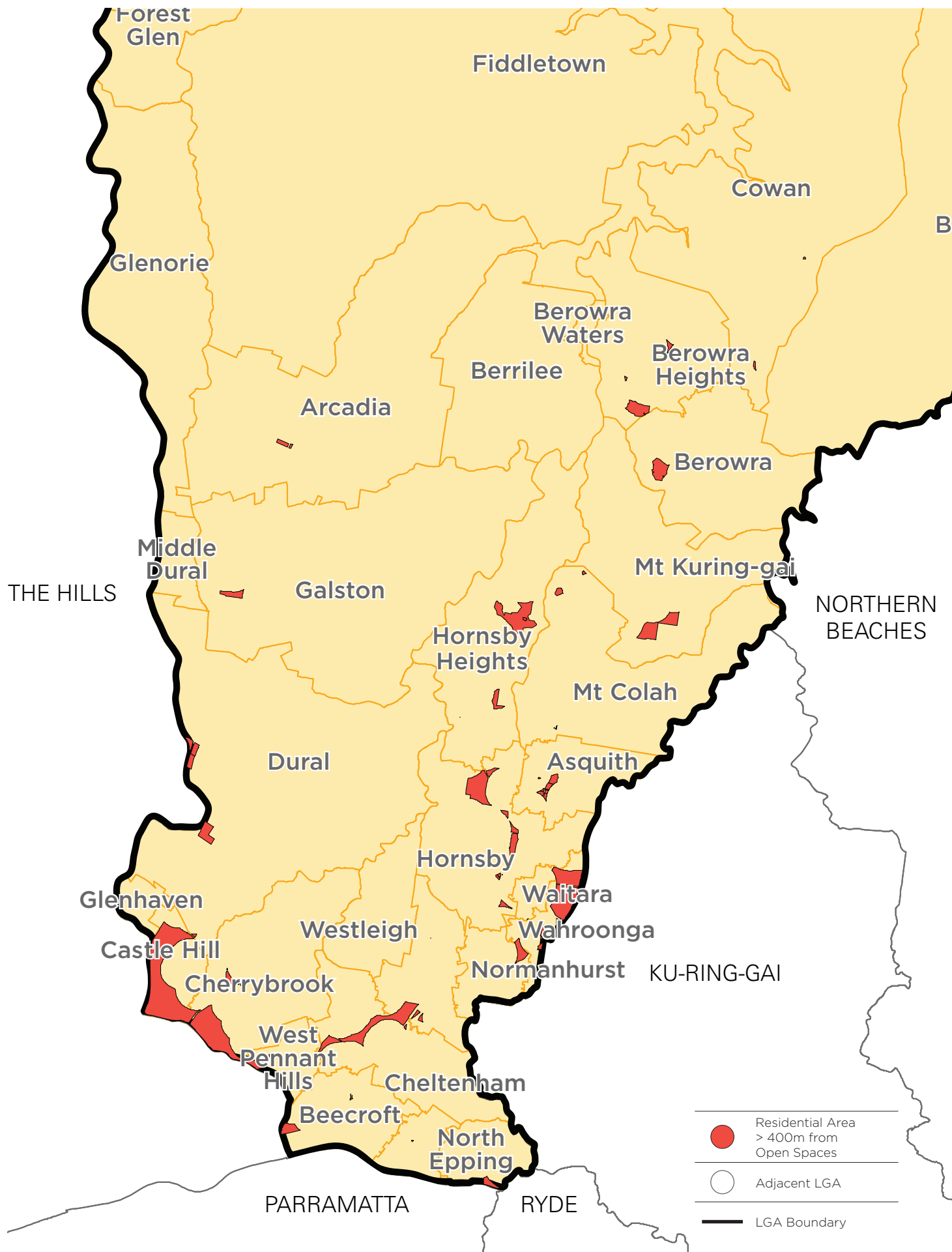


Figure 23 – Residential Areas for open space investigations and shared use of school grounds

High density areas for open space investigations and shared use of school grounds

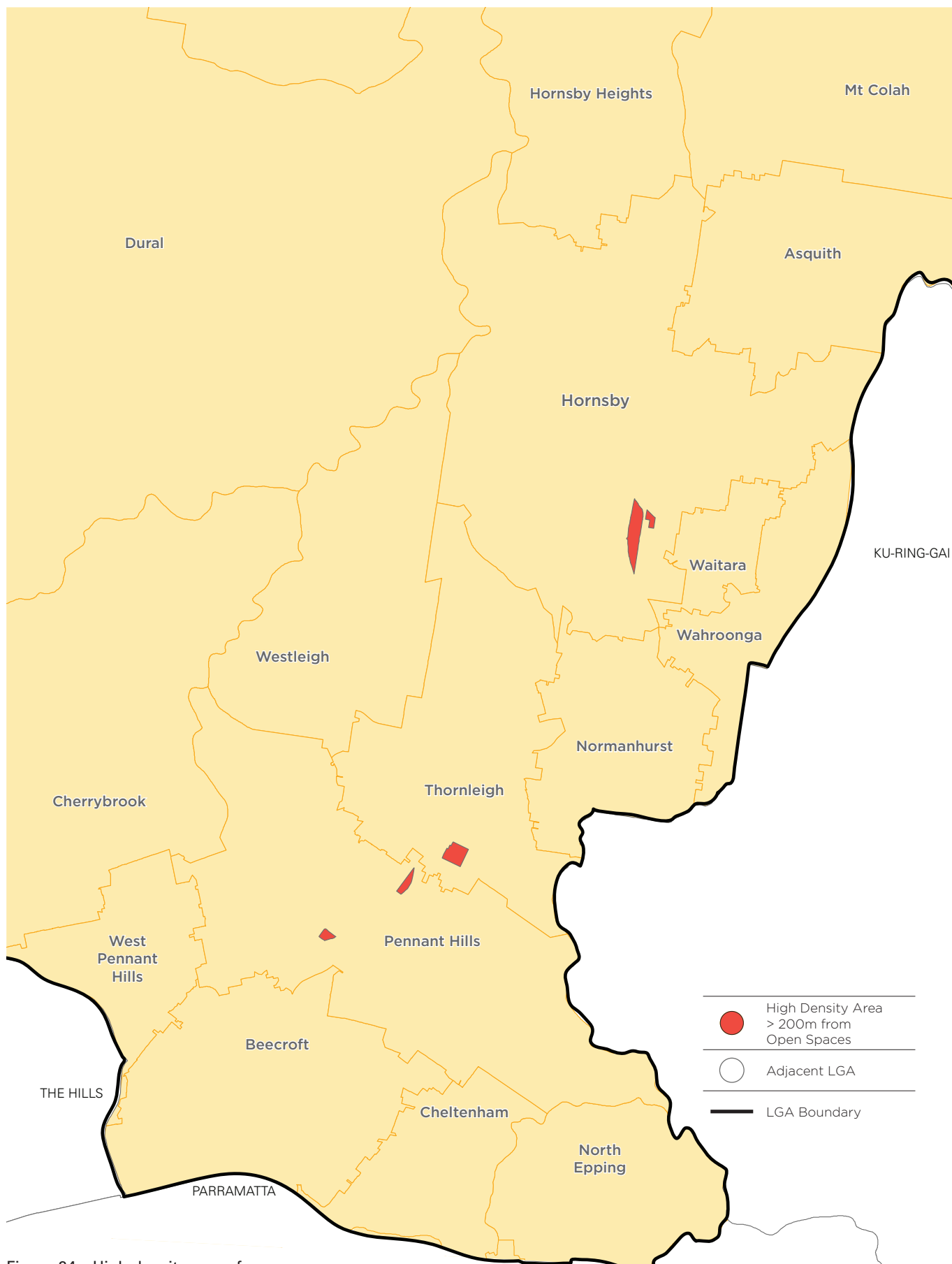


Figure 24 – High density areas for open space investigations and shared use of school grounds

Our Waterways

Our waterways are some of Hornsby's most important natural assets. Hornsby Shire covers the Berowra Creek, Hornsby Creek, Cowan Creek, Lane Cove and Hawkesbury River catchments. Risks to waterway health include pollution, erosive flows, climate change, aging stormwater and sewer infrastructure, and industrial and urban runoff from hard stand surfaces. Council is looking to support social and cultural values of waterways and estuaries through maintenance and provision of appropriate public access, amenity, use and safety across our catchments and coastal zone. Opportunities are being considered through a range of strategic and place based projects, including the Brooklyn Place Plan. Furthermore, the Walking and Cycling Strategy being prepared, which includes bush walking, and will identify and propose strategic track upgrades to waterway access points.

We currently zone our estuarine assets based on our *Waterways Review* completed in 2005. Our E2 Environmental Conservation zones provide for the protection and management of our mangrove, saltmarsh, seagrass and other important aquatic communities. We also have development controls and guidelines in our *Development Control Plan* relating to protecting urban waterways through the implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design.

Council's *Sustainable Total Water Cycle Management Strategy (2005)* takes a holistic approach to the management of water resources and aims to:

- mimic natural flows,
- maintain and enhance water quality,
- maximise efficiency and effectiveness of water use and reuse,
- involve community through effective participation and learning,
- promote a productive economy,
- develop governance structures,
- provide incentives and foster partnerships to achieve this vision.

On a regional scale, we are developing a new *Coastal Management Plan* for the Hawkesbury Estuary in partnership with Central Coast, Northern Beaches, Ku-ring-gai, The Hills and Hawkesbury councils. The Coastal Management Plan will set the long-term strategy for the coordinated management of the Hawkesbury River catchment with a focus on achieving the objects of the *Coastal Management Act 2016*. It will identify opportunities to link to the Green Grid and improve access to waterways, particularly at Brooklyn.

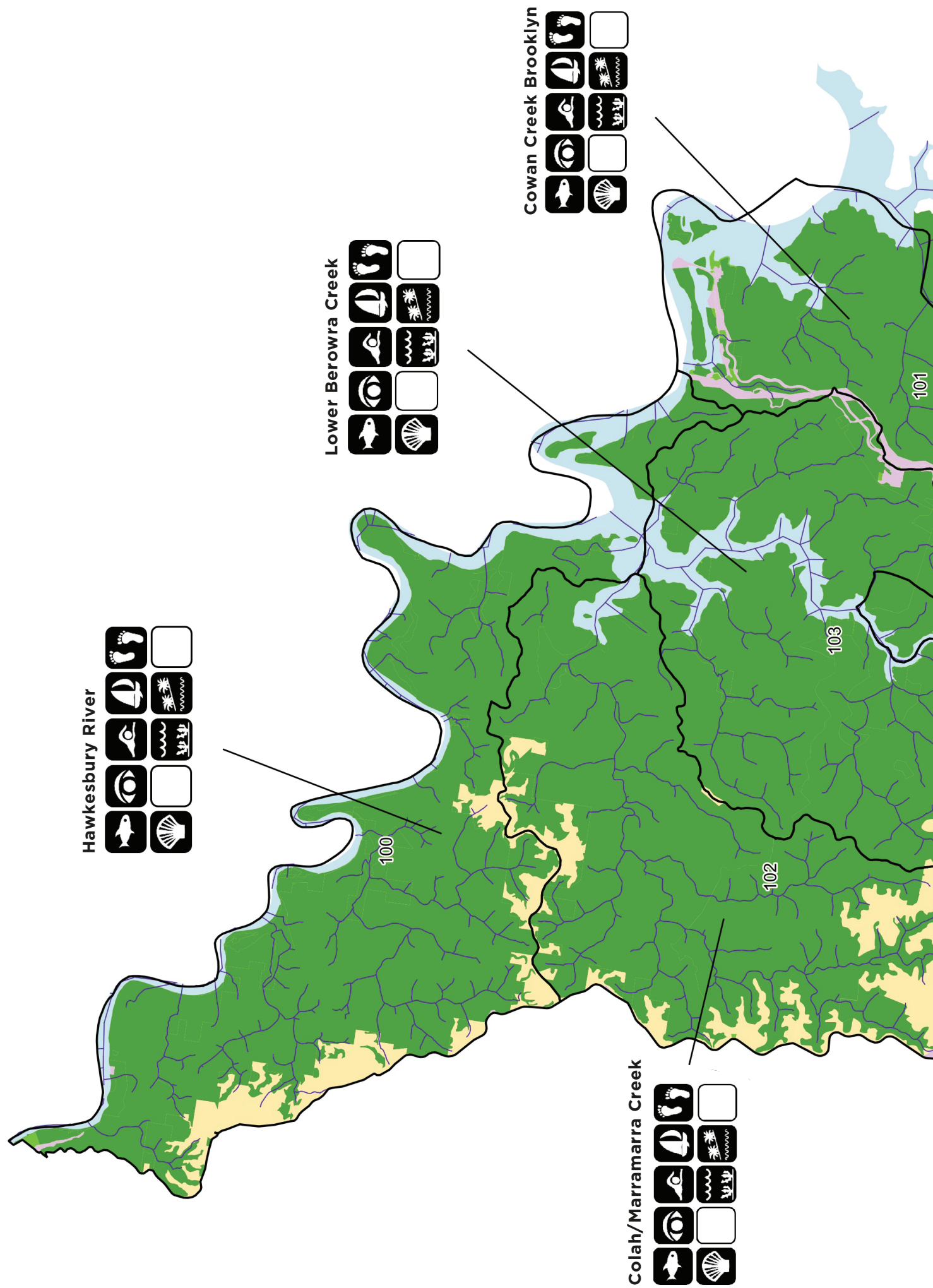
We know that there is more to be done at a local level to significantly improve the health and function of our waterways and catchments. In recognition of this, we have commenced the *Water Sensitive Hornsby* project, which will build on Council's current strategic water management approach and provide a vision for Hornsby that ensures:

- Hornsby's land and water environments are healthy, cherished and actively enhanced through the community's commitment to stewardship
- Aboriginal water knowledge, values and ways of thinking are understood and embraced by Hornsby communities
- Hornsby is filled with beautiful green and blue spaces that celebrate water, enhance liveability, and provide multiple benefits for people and the environment
- Water governance supports a water sensitive Hornsby through collaborative, integrated, adaptive and inclusive arrangements
- Adaptive, efficient and innovative water technologies and infrastructure systems support long-term sustainability and resilience of Hornsby.

Through the *Water Sensitive Hornsby* project, it is envisaged that we will develop catchment specific environmental values and targets through engagement with our community and for these targets to inform potential changes to our *Hornsby Development Control Plan 2013*. We will be using a risk-based framework for considering waterways health outcomes (OEH, 2017) to develop these values and targets. The Waterways Map over the page identifies all waterways and catchments within Hornsby Shire and lists preliminary community values for each catchment. (Refer to Figure 25)



Image credit: Damian Shaw Photography - Crosslands



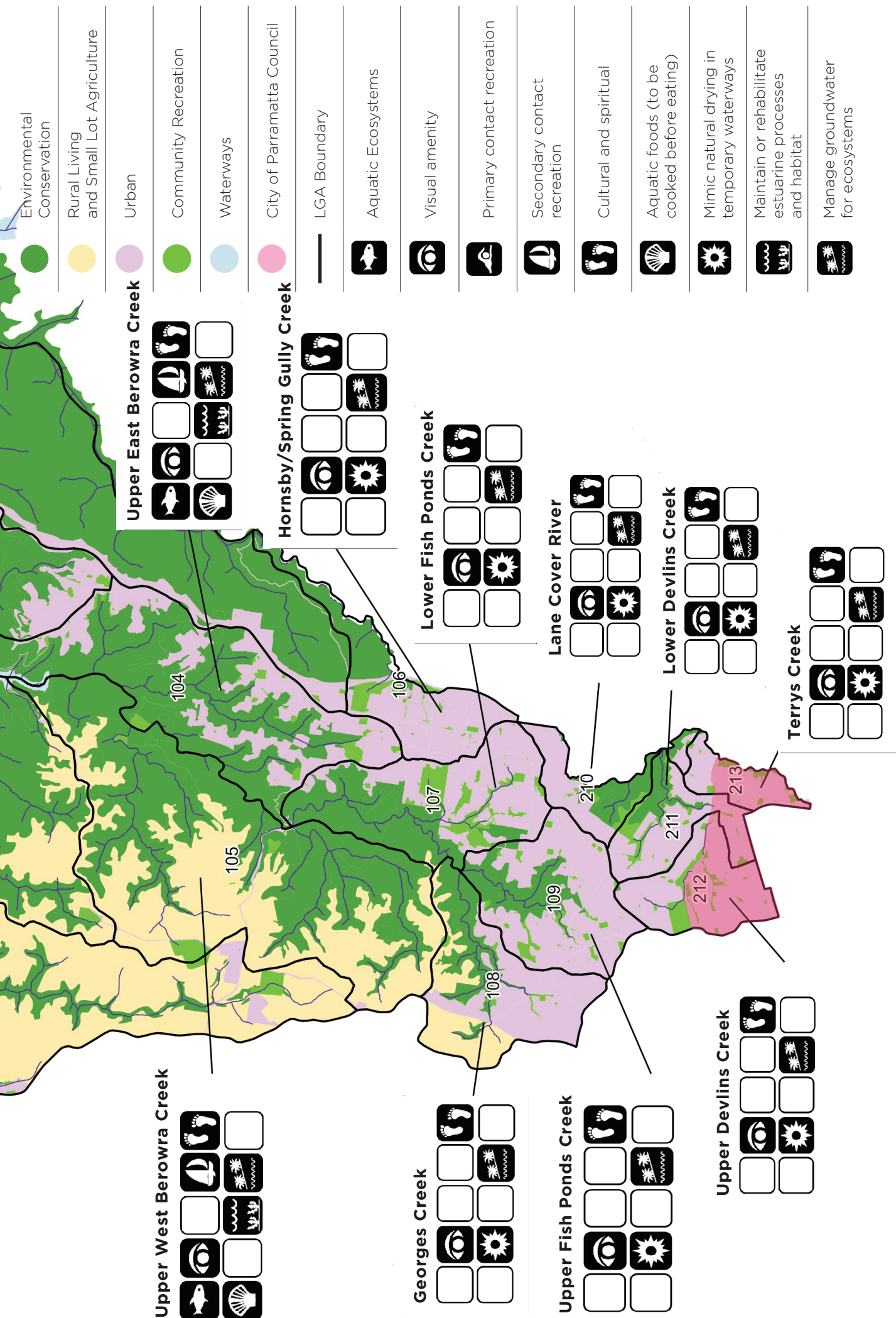


Figure 25 – Draft Waterways Community Environmental Values and Uses Mapping
(Preliminary mapping on existing Community Environmental Values and Uses of waterways based on existing policy (NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives; Healthy Rivers Commission Inquiry for Hawkesbury-Nepean and the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan in 2008)

Our Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

A high quality and secure water supply is essential for community health and economic growth. Urban areas use about 18 percent of all water consumed in NSW. In recognition of the growth in our Shire, water and wastewater infrastructure may need to be expanded and upgraded over time. Water Sensitive Hornsby will articulate these needs to ensure Council continues to work with water utilities to understand water efficiency and alternative water supply opportunities, specifically in relation to the three sewage treatment plants and associated infrastructure that exist within our Shire and discharge to local creeks and the Hawkesbury River.

Our rural areas are also constrained by the provision of mains water and sewerage infrastructure. There are currently 2,700 properties in the Shire that are unsewered and rely on onsite sewage management systems for the treatment of wastewater. Onsite sewage management systems have the potential to impact the surrounding environment if not managed correctly. We will continue to ensure that property owners are adequately maintaining their onsite wastewater management system to ensure it meets health and environmental performance standards.

Our Hazards and Resilience

Currently 48 percent of the properties in the Shire are located in bushfire prone areas. Severe Fire Weather is projected to increase in summer across Metropolitan Sydney and we will need to work with our community to increase resilience. In some circumstances the intensification of development in high risk areas may not be acceptable. Our strategies for growth and housing have been, and will continue to be, focussed in areas where natural hazard risks are low. The safety of our community, the location and design of our homes and the ability to evacuate areas under threat quickly are our primary concerns.

Our bushfire prone and flood affected areas are mapped in the *Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013* and we have a *Bushfire Management Strategy* under preparation and flooding/sea level rise vulnerability mapped in our *Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Plan (2009)*. Council is currently developing a Bushfire Risk Management Strategy for Hornsby Shire Council Bushland Reserves. This project provides a finer scale understanding of the bushfire risk on the hazard interface, associated with bushfire prone reserves under the care and control of council. The project will enable prioritisation of interface management zones and identification of potential bushfire mitigation opportunities.

The *Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bush Fire Risk Management Plan* maps the level of risk across the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai council areas, helping residents and authorities prepare for bush fires.

The plan is prepared by the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bush Fire Management Committee, which includes a range of stakeholders including Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai councils, land managers, fire authorities and community organisations.

The plan maps the level of risk across the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai area, telling residents how much danger they would be in if there is a bush fire. It also helps authorities reduce the risk through measures such as mechanical clearing, hazard reduction burns and community education.

The Rural Fire Service (RFS) has advised that areas north of Yirra Road, Mount Colah are subject to satisfactory Evacuation Risk Modelling and Management Planning. (Refer to Figure 26) The RFS has undertaken preliminary work on Evacuation Risk Modelling. However, funding approval is yet to be obtained and the development of an Evacuation Risk Modelling Tool may take years to complete.

Council has made representations to the Greater Sydney Commission and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment that the limitation which applies north of Yirra Road, Mount Colah should be considered in relation to the finalisation of medium and long-term housing targets for Hornsby Shire. (Refer to Figure 27)

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Local Emergency Management Committee is responsible for preventing and preparing for emergencies, coordinating emergency responses and helping with recovery efforts.

The Committee is made up of representatives from councils, NSW Police, the Ku-ring-gai State Emergency Service (SES), the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and other local organisations.

Other hazards predicted for the Hornsby Shire include the intensification of storm events, increase in wind speeds and sea level rise. The effects of local flooding will continue to be managed as the Shire changes over the next 20 years. We are working to adequately identify the flood risk presented to the Shire so we can better prepare for, and mitigate the risks of flooding. Council is also working to better understand how coastal inundation and future sea level rise may impact our river communities.

Bushfire Prone Land

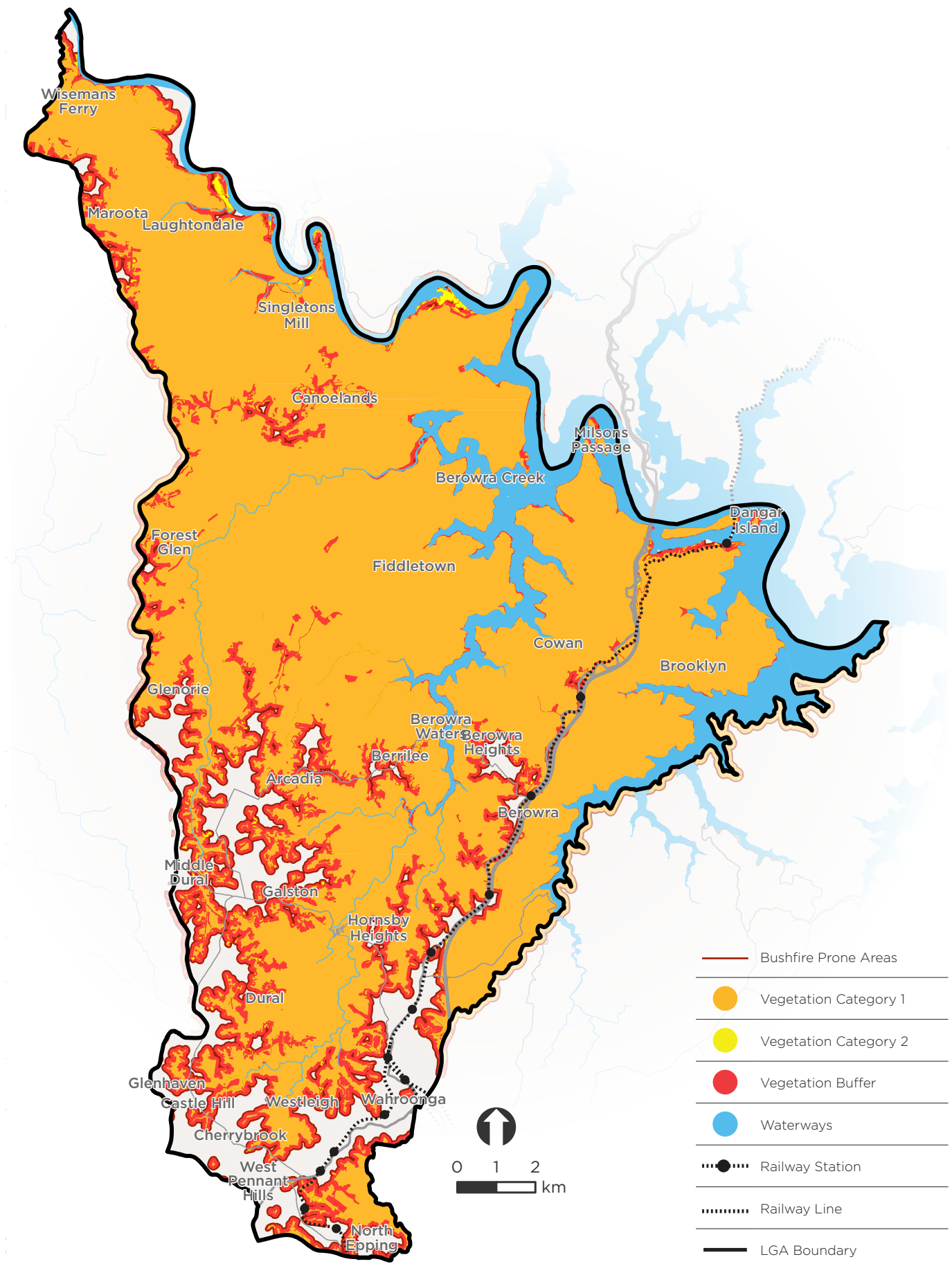


Figure 26 – Bushfire Prone Land Map

Land subject to Bushfire Evacuation Risk Modelling

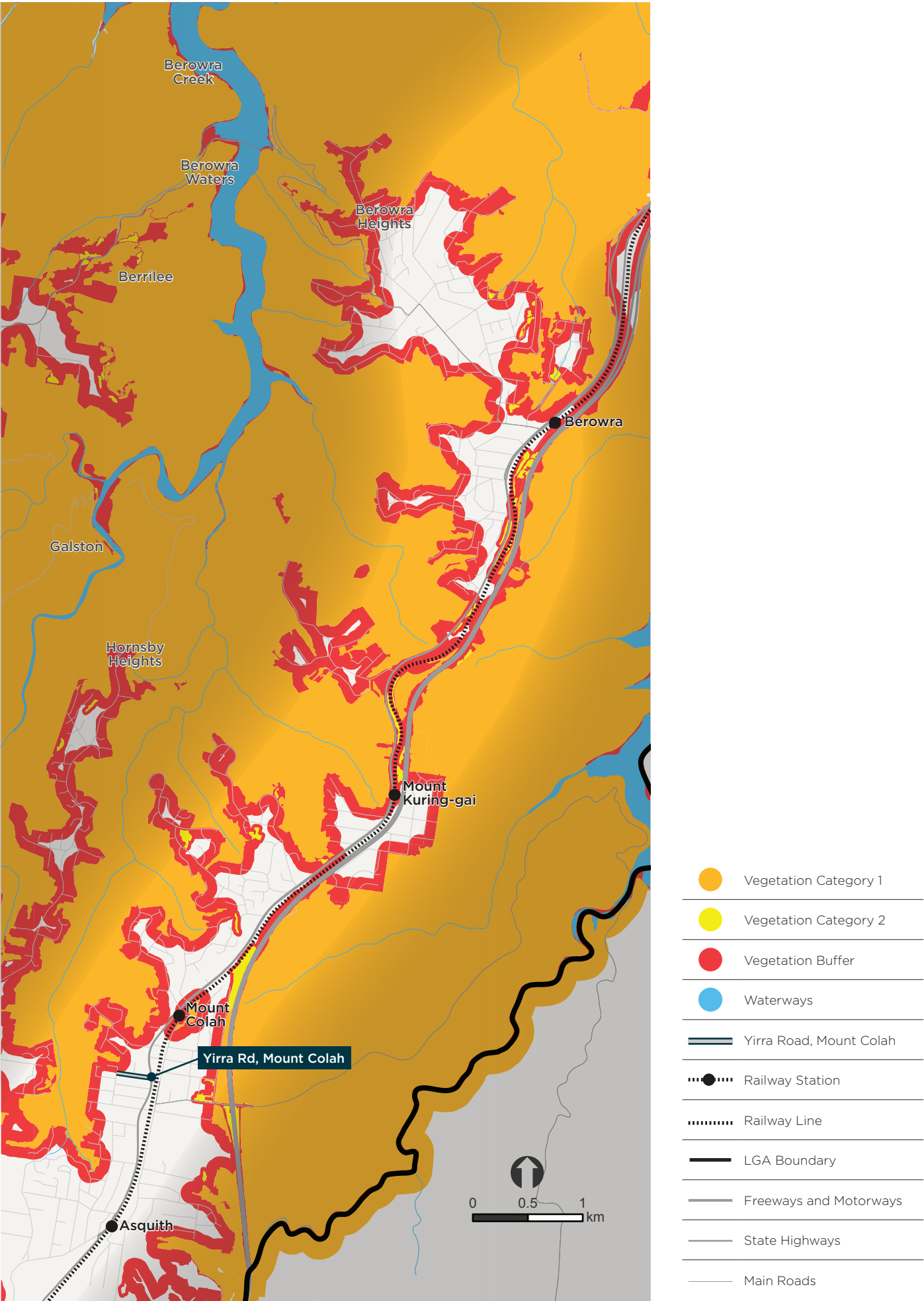


Figure 27 – Land subject to Bushfire Evacuation Risk Modelling

Our Rural Areas

The rural lands of Hornsby Shire are part of the Metropolitan Rural Area (MRA) and contain a mixture of productive agricultural land, extractive industries, rural residential development, rural villages, scenic rural landscapes, native vegetation and biodiversity corridors. Our rural areas play a critical role for our environment and local economy. (Refer to Figure 28)

Council's approach to guiding development within the rural areas of the Shire to date has been informed by previous studies including:

- The Rural Lands Study 1995;
- Rural Resource Study 2006;
- Rural Lands Planning Provisions 2009; and
- Rural Lands Planning Community Issues survey undertaken in 2014.

Recent amendments to the *Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013 (HLEP)* and the *Hornsby Development Control Plan 2013 (HDCP)* responded to issues raised in the 2014 community survey by including new controls that permit:

- Secondary dwellings up to 33 percent of the size of the principal dwelling;
- Attached dual occupancy up to 200sqm on a lot that is equal to or greater than the minimum lot size for that land;
- Roadside stalls up to 40sqm; and
- Split zone lots (comprising rural and environmental protection zoned land) with a total area that complies with the rural zone lot size and have a component of rural zoned land equal to or greater than 20 percent of the minimum lot size for that land.

One of the key constraints for our rural areas is the lack of adequate transport infrastructure, primarily our State and regional roads. The Federal Government announced \$10 million of funding towards planning upgrades of New Line Road, but additional funding is required to adequately resolve the regional road network issues.

Importantly, the South Dural Planning Proposal was withdrawn in 2018 in response to the road and infrastructure constraints in the region. Importantly since then, urban development has been limited to within identified Urban Area under both the Greater Sydney Region Plan (Objective 29) and North District Plan (Planning Priority N18). Any Planning Proposal seeking a change within the MRA would need to demonstrate substantial strategic merit to warrant a change not only to the local planning scheme but also inform changes to both the District and Regional Plans.

Residents living in our rural areas are experiencing significant traffic, which is further compounded by through traffic originating in the adjoining Hills Shire. This is one of the key regional issues facing Hornsby Shire. Better management of our rural lands, including our capacity to address infrastructure constraints, is a key consideration for Council for future rural planning.

Council and the community also share significant concerns about the State Government policy allowing seniors housing developments in the rural areas through the use of what is known as site compatibility certificates. These concerns have been raised with the Minister for Planning and the Greater Sydney Commission.

Our Scenic and Cultural Landscapes

There are several valued scenic landscapes in Hornsby including the Hawkesbury River and its tributaries, such as Berowra and Cowan Creeks, which are framed by Protected Natural Areas. Adopting a place-based approach for the Rural Lands Study will help to identify other areas of scenic and cultural value whilst protecting views to and from the Hawkesbury River.

Seniors Housing and Site Compatibility Certificates Project Control Group

The Greater Sydney Commission has requested Council's participation in a pilot project to conduct detailed research on the challenges identified concerning site compatibility certificates for seniors housing and housing for people with a disability within the Metropolitan Rural Area. We will continue to partner with the Greater Sydney Commission to deliver an appropriate outcome that will protect our valuable rural lands.

Our priority is to better manage our rural lands, being mindful of the current constraints but also capitalising on strategic opportunities identified through an updated Rural Lands Study. A design-led place based approach to planning for our rural areas will help investigate opportunities that conserve rural character and protect environmentally sensitive and productive land for future use. The place-based approach will involve the identification of a number of landscape areas² and the development of a character statement for each landscape area. Preparation of the character statements will be conducted in consultation with our rural communities and help us to develop a framework for making informed strategic land use decisions.

² A landscape area is a place with shared characteristics, such as:
Physical features (bushland, cleared land, farmland, topography, valleys, waterways)
Land uses (rural, village, agriculture)
Other unique qualities and character



Metropolitan Rural Area

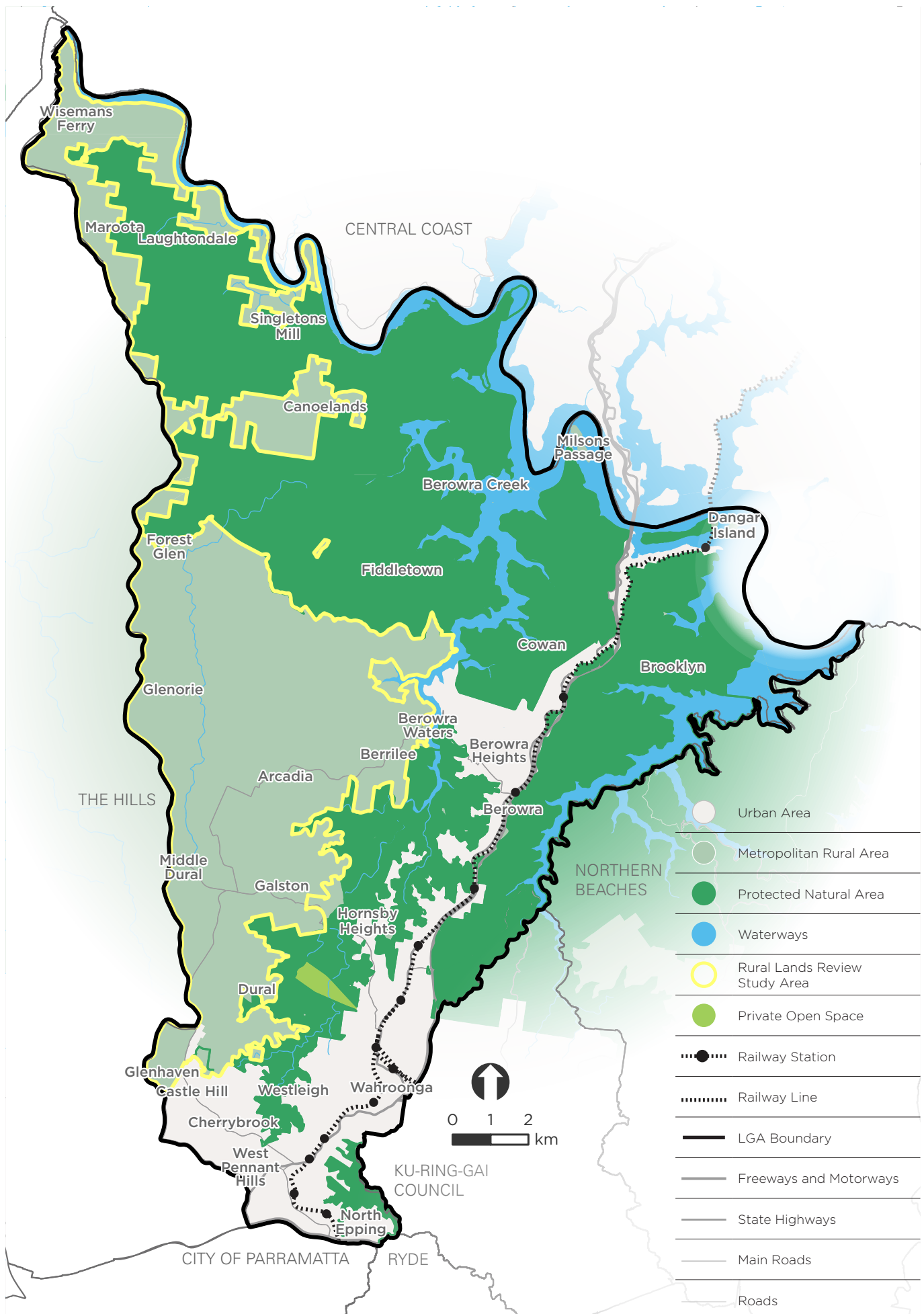


Figure 28 – Metropolitan Rural Area Map

Our Sustainable Priorities and Actions

			Alignment	
Our Sustainable Priorities	Our Sustainable Actions	Timing	Hornsby Community Strategic Plan	North District Plan
SP1. Improving the overall health of our natural environment and ecosystem. SP2. Protecting and increasing the extent and quality of natural areas in Hornsby Shire.	SA1. Incorporate feedback received through the community and stakeholder engagement for Environmental Sustainability conducted in early 2019 and through the public exhibition period of the LSPS.	Immediate		N16 Action 66 N17 Action 67-68 N17 Action 71
	SA2. Develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy which will provide an overarching framework to address environmental sustainability issues facing the Shire. This strategy will cover the areas of Urban Forest, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Walking & Cycling, Waste, and Water Sensitive Cities and Urban Heat.	Immediate		
SP3. Protecting and improving the health of catchments and waterways and deliver well planned and designed local water infrastructure solutions.	SA3. Complete the Coastal Management Plan Scoping Study for the Hawkesbury Estuary.	Short Term	FA7 FA8 FA10	N15 Action 62-65
	SA4. Finalise the Water Sensitive Hornsby project.	Immediate		
SP4. Improving connectivity between natural areas. SP5. Embedding biodiversity conservation principles throughout local planning policies.	SA5. Finalise the Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan and associated Action Plan.	Immediate	FA6 FA7 FA8	N16 Action 66
	SA6. Audit local planning policies and incorporate, where needed, with biodiversity conservation principles.	Immediate		
SP6. Increasing urban tree canopy cover, develop cooler, greener places and strengthen connections to the Green Grid.	SA7. Finalise the Urban Forest Strategy.	Immediate	FA6 FA7 FA8 FA10	N19 Action 71-72
	SA8. Commence a review of the Pennant Hills Road corridor between Pennant Hills and Thornleigh following the opening of NorthConnex.	Medium Term		
SP7. Mitigating the effects of urban heat.	SA9. Develop a regional Urban Heat Policy in conjunction with Northern Sydney councils.	Immediate	FA6 FA8	N22 Action 82
	SA10. Implement actions from Urban Forest Strategy.			
SP8. Maintaining and enhancing the environmental, economic and scenic values of the Metropolitan Rural Areas of Hornsby.	SA11. Finalise the Rural Lands Study.	Immediate	FA6 FA7 FA10	N18 Action 69 Action 70
	SA12: Continue to partner with the Greater Sydney Commission to advocate for changes to State planning policy to deliver an appropriate outcome for seniors housing that will protect rural lands.	Ongoing		
SP9. Reducing carbon emissions and managing energy, water and waste efficiently.	SA13. Finalise Waste Strategy.	Immediate	FA7	N20 Action 74 Action 76-77
	SA14. Implement actions from Water Sensitive Hornsby			

Alignment

Our Sustainable Priorities	Our Sustainable Actions	Timing	Hornsby Community Strategic Plan	North District Plan
SP10. Ensuring inclusive play experiences are available across the Shire providing playgrounds that are diverse in their design, exciting, challenging and safe for all.	SA15. Finalise the Hornsby Play Plan and outline actions for a delivery program.	Immediate	FA6 FA7 FA10	N20 Action 73
SP11. Providing healthy, connected and inclusive infrastructure and facilities.	SA16. Update the Active Living Strategy incorporating the findings of the Hornsby Play Plan, Walking and Cycling Strategy and Hornsby Sportsground Strategy.	Immediate	FA6 FA7 FA10	N20 Action 73
SP12. Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of urban and natural climate change.	SA17 Finalise Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan.	Immediate	FA7 FA8	N22 Action 80
SP13. Reducing carbon emissions and air pollution, and managing energy water and waste efficiently.	SA18. Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation actions into the future Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	Immediate		
SP14. Improving our community and corporate use of energy and water.				
SP15. Protecting our community from natural hazards.	SA19. Assess current and future risk from coastal hazards as part of Hawkesbury River Coastal Management Program	Ongoing	FA7 FA8 FA9	N22 Action 81
	SA20. Contribute to the periodic review of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bushfire Risk Management Plan	Immediate		
	SA21. Finalise Hornsby Bushfire Management Strategy	Immediate		
	SA22. Advocate in partnership with the Rural Fire Service to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Greater Sydney Commission regarding funding for the progression of a Bushfire Evacuation Model for the Shire.	Ongoing		
	SA23. Finalise Hornsby Flood Plain Risk Management Plan.	Immediate		

Legend

Immediate – Current Delivery Program (2019-2021)

Short Term – Next Delivery Program (2021-2025)

Medium Term – Delivery Program (2025-2029)

Long Term – Beyond 2029

Productive

“ Creating opportunities for the local economy and fostering well-balanced and connected neighbourhoods. ”

This chapter highlights the productive aspects of Hornsby Shire, current community priorities and our vision. It is followed by priorities and actions that will protect and enhance our productivity over the next 20 years, with specific focus on:

- Our Jobs and Employment Lands;
- Our Economic Development;
- Our River Settlements;
- Our Strategic Centre;
- Our Health and Education Services;
- Our Transport and Connectivity; and
- Our City-Shaping, City-Serving and Centre-Serving Corridors.

North District Plan Directions

A well connected city

Developing a more accessible and walkable city



Jobs and skills for the city

Creating the conditions for a stronger economy



Our Community Priorities

- 3.1** The prosperity of the Shire increases
- 3.2** The commercial centres in the Shire are revitalised
- 3.3** The road / path network provides for efficient vehicle and pedestrian flows

(Hornsby Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028)

Hornsby Shire Economic Profile

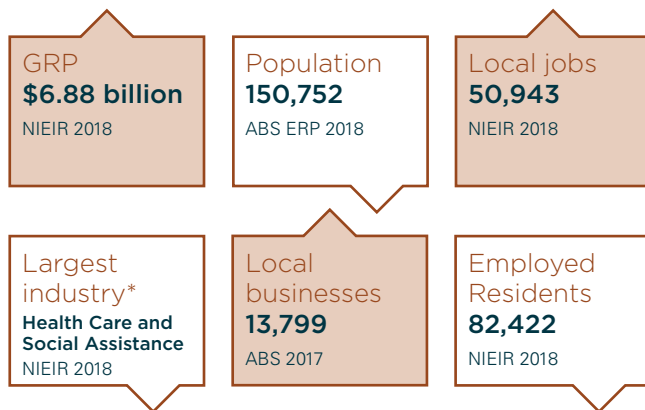


Figure 29 – Hornsby Shire Economic Profile

Introduction

Hornsby Shire provides an attractive environment in which to invest, live, work and enjoy recreational activities. Our Shire is a productive area of Greater Sydney, with our employment centres and precincts contributing \$6.88 billion to the regional economy in the year ending June 2018. (Refer to Figure 29)

There were 50,943 jobs located within the Shire in the year ending June 2018. The three largest industry sectors, accounting for 23,716 jobs or 46.6 percent of the local employment, were:

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Education and Training
- Retail Trade

There were 82,422 residents employed in the year ending June 2018. The most popular industry sectors for employment of the Shire's resident workforce were:

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
- Education and Training

Over 70 percent of the resident workforce is employed outside of the Shire. This adds to commute times for residents and burdens the transport infrastructure, impacting the quality of life for our community. Council seeks to promote the "30-minute city" by improving the local transport network and regional connections, and by creating more opportunities for the community to both live and work locally.

By identifying priorities that will achieve a 30-minute city, both at the district and local level, and by understanding

the interdependencies between land use and transport planning, including active transport, Council seeks to improve economic opportunities for the Shire's employment centres and precincts.

Our vision is to support sustainable growth of the employment areas by creating quality built environments, protecting our natural assets, improving connectivity and delivering infrastructure, and by supporting and leveraging the Shire's rural industries and visitor economy. An important part of this vision is to develop the Hornsby Town Centre area as a key strategic centre within the Northern District, and the primary focus for employment growth within the Shire.

Our Jobs and Employment Lands

The *Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby Subregional Employment Study 2008* guides the Shire's current strategy for employment land use. The key recommendations from the Study included the following:

- Restricting residential land uses in commercial zones to promote commercial development and create employment opportunities in Hornsby Town Centre;
- Initiating place-making activities for Hornsby Town Centre;
- Increasing floor space ratios for commercially zoned land to promote the development of centres;
- Promoting active street frontages and retaining the 'fine grain' traditional main street character of centres;
- Limiting development capacity in centres with high excess supply;
- Maintaining the capacity of local industrial areas; and
- Promoting home-based businesses.

The *Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby Subregional Employment Study* is now more than 10 years old and a review of the Shire's employment centres and precincts is currently being undertaken through an updated *Employment Land Use Study*. The study aims to understand the current business climate and identify the economic trends that will shape future employment growth in the Shire.

One of the key objectives for employment in the Shire over the next 20 years is to create places of interest that are supported by adequate infrastructure, that are productive and economically viable, and are connected to and integrated with the metropolitan economy. Our employment lands are diverse and located throughout different areas of the Shire. (Refer to Figure 32)

A place-based approach for developing the local economy will provide for sustainable growth and prosperity into the future. A strong focus on the viability of our local centres and employment precincts will support both our current and future population.

The updated *Employment Land Use Study* includes a review of the current situation of our employment lands and provides an insight into the future needs of the Shire. Council will investigate the industrial and urban services lands within the Shire to improve opportunities for local employment and to better manage the interface with adjoining residential areas. The Study will help to inform the development of a balanced strategy for economic development that encourages business growth and local jobs to complement the projected population growth in the Shire. Determining the significance of the employment lands will shape the planning framework and ensure our local employment centres and precincts are viable into the future, in supporting the Shire's residential catchments, in response to the changes in labour force, and in connecting to the metropolitan economic and transportation networks.

The Study supports how economic development may be undertaken in the Shire that will not adversely impact upon the natural and built environment, including heritage. The objective will be to encourage development that improves the economic vitality, health, cultural and social environments of the Shire.

Our Economic Development

Council's *Economic Development Strategy 2007-2011* aims to increase and strengthen business and employment opportunities in the Shire, by:

- Retaining existing businesses in the Shire and to work with them to ensure their long term sustainability;
- Attracting new investment into the Shire;
- Increasing local employment opportunities;
- Promoting and marketing the Shire as an investment opportunity of choice in Northern Sydney; and
- Working with other levels of government and the business community to facilitate the start-up of new investment ventures.

To achieve the above, the Strategy identifies the following strategic actions:

- Information and support services to business;
- Marketing and promotion of the Shire;
- Promoting business growth in its subregional and district centres;
- Supporting the retention of existing business;
- Facilitating new, and expansion of existing, business investment;

- Making investment ready development opportunities in the Shire;
- Ongoing infrastructure development;
- Ongoing funding for economic development; and
- Identifying opportunities for business clusters in the Shire.

Council has committed to the preparation of a new *Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2019-2025*. The primary purpose of the Strategy will be to enable the Shire to attract and facilitate business and tourism activity and investment. Council requires a detailed understanding of the current situation and the role the Shire may play for economic development and tourism opportunities.

The Shire has a number of notable tourist assets including the Great North Walk, the Hawkesbury River and Wisemans Ferry all playing a critical role in our visitor economy. However, we know that there are many other local tourist destinations and opportunities that may benefit from the findings and recommendations of the Strategy.

The Shire also has a high proportion of home-based businesses which play an important role in the productivity of the area. Home-based businesses make a vital contribution by supporting local centre businesses and by reducing demand on the local and regional roads.

The *Economic Development and Tourism Strategy 2019-2025* will provide strategic direction to grow and maximise the Shire's economic development and tourism potential, support viable and sustainable agricultural and resources-based industries, support local and home-based businesses, and facilitate new and emerging industries and the digital economy. The Strategy will be a key resource for Council to make strategic decisions in relation to investment in economic development and tourism management, infrastructure, partnerships and stakeholder engagement.

Our River Settlements

Our river settlements and the surrounding natural attractions form a critical part of our local economy. Council has endorsed that priority be given to working with the community on a place-making approach for Brooklyn with a focus on delivering achievable improvements. One of the key priorities will be to prepare a *Brooklyn Place Plan* in partnership with the local community. Importantly, this Plan will take into account the needs of all river settlements and will seek to improve how residents and visitors experience Brooklyn.

Council continues to work with Central Coast Council in relation to the Peat Island Planning Proposal. A number of submissions have raised the following matters that require further investigation:

- Accessibility to Hawkesbury River and Berowra

Railway Stations;

- Commuter berthing and parking, including public wharf;
- Economic impact of commercial zoned land on Brooklyn;
- Bushfire prone land and associated risk;
- Clarification of development intensity;
- Sewerage disposal;
- Terrestrial and estuarine biodiversity impacts; and
- Heritage impacts.

Our Strategic Centre

Jobs

2016 Estimate	14,300
2036 Baseline Target	18,000
2036 Higher Target	22,000

Council has committed to the *Hornsby Town Centre Review*. (Refer to Figure 30) The Hornsby Town Centre (HTC) is the major commercial centre and is nominated as a *strategic centre* under the *North District Plan*. HTC plays a critical role in providing employment, social and retail services for residents both within and surrounding Hornsby LGA. It has good connectivity to other areas of Sydney and the Central Coast via the local and regional road network and rail network. Opportunities to expand its future employment role are being investigated under the Review.

The Review is also investigating opportunities to transform the HTC into a more liveable, green and accessible centre that enhances public life for the community. Council needs to effectively manage and facilitate its future growth and development to strengthen its role as the major urban centre of the Shire.

Some of the key objectives of the Review include the following:

- To enhance the public domain as an attractive destination and 'a place for people' and establishing and reinforcing a sense of place.
- To enhance the built and natural environment of HTC through the integration of green and blue infrastructure within the public domain.
- To develop a unifying design theme for HTC that reflects its culture and the 'preferred character'.
- To create linear landscaped links between the main activity areas of the CBD and its principal open spaces and key destinations such as Hornsby Park, Hornsby TAFE, schools, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai hospital and Hornsby west side.
- To improve the amenity and appearance of HTC's main pedestrian streets and entrances.

- To create a pedestrian-focussed, accessible and well-connected public realm, particularly for those with limited mobility.
- To promote sustainable methods of transport, supporting walking and cycling as viable alternatives to car travel within, and to and from, HTC and planning for and facilitating 'future transport'.
- Leverage the transport interchange to encourage greater connectivity between Hornsby and the Harbour CBD as a critical contributor to achieving the "30-minute city".



Figure 30 – HSC Study Area

Hornsby Town Centre – Collaboration

To achieve a transformation of this scale we are working closely with key stakeholders within Hornsby Town Centre and a range of State Government Departments and Agencies. Successful delivery of the key outcomes will require partnership and collaboration throughout the life of the project.

Hornsby Town Centre

Vision

A place for people that reflects the uniqueness of the bushland setting, integrated around key public spaces, where the city meets the bush. An active, thriving centre that exhibits economic diversity, design excellence, liveability and sustainability.

Centre Principles

- A centre that reflects the Shire through the use of tree canopy, landscape, water, sandstone, storytelling and linkages to Hornsby Park.
- A centre that builds on the mall and expands the type and variety of public spaces that are both accessible and attractive.
- A centre that supports a diversity of employment including start-ups, day to day services, businesses and offices, and employment catalysts such as a university or Government hub.
- A centre that exhibits best practice environmental sustainability.
- A cultural centre through provision of a range of community facilities connected to open spaces.
- A centre that is viewed as a whole and integrates the east and west sides seamlessly.
- A centre that promotes and exhibits design excellence.
- An active night time economy creating a vibrant and attractive place.
- Creation of public and private domain that supports an increased tree canopy.
- Development that results in human scale and fine grain.
- A destination in its own right.
- Transport infrastructure that supports the vision in terms of well-located bus, train, commuter parking, cycling and pedestrian modes and linkages.
- Development over the rail line at a scale that supports the aspirations of the centre.
- A range of housing of high amenity at a variety of densities and scale to deliver greater housing diversity and housing choice, including affordable housing options.
- Identify, reinforce and protect important elements that contribute to the character of the centre.
- Identify limits to the centre and designate areas of activation.
- Ensure built form and spaces have a human scale and that scale transitions are managed to maintain this scale.
- Provide accessible public and private spaces that are easily navigated.



Our Health and Education Services

Hornsby Shire is home to a number of educational facilities and services including schools, private colleges and Hornsby TAFE. The Shire is also home to the Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Hospital and other substantial health services infrastructure. Our aim is to ensure that our health and education services continue to adequately serve our community into the future, and are a catalyst for local employment growth.

Our future planning for the Shire will require close partnerships with NSW Health, Northern Sydney Local Health District, the NSW Department of Education and local private health services, schools and colleges. We will be forming an Agency Reference Group with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to help guide the planning process for the *Hornsby Town Centre Review*. Locating health and other social infrastructure within the Hornsby Town Centre has a number of advantages including proximity to larger health providers, high accessibility for people of all ages and abilities and clustering services that cater to people's needs at different stages of life.

Council will investigate options to enhance the provision of the local health and education services and ensure that any new health and education facilities and services are delivered alongside any expected growth.

Our Transport and Connectivity

The productivity of the Shire is closely linked to the level of accessibility, connectivity and quality of transport infrastructure. In 2016, there were 19,256 people who caught public transport to work (train or bus) in Hornsby Shire, compared with 38,055 who drove in private vehicles (car – as driver, car – as passenger, motorbike, or truck).

Analysis of the method of travel to work of the residents in the Shire, compared to Greater Sydney, shows that 27.2% used public transport, while 53.8% used a private vehicle, compared with 22.7% and 58.1% respectively in Greater Sydney.

As the Shire grows, the efficient movement of people and goods will be a critical land use consideration. Council's *Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (2004)* (ILUTS) looks at current and future challenges for the Shire, and presents a suite of 'action plans' to deliver a sustainable, integrated movement network with better parking management and active transport options, including:

- Land Use and Development;
- Travel Demand Management;
- Public Transport;
- Arterial Roads;
- Local Street Management;
- Car Parking Management;
- Walking and Cycling; and
- Access to National Parks, Bushland and Open Space.

The current ILUTS provides a framework for action that promotes viable and sustainable transport for the Shire. The key objective of the ILUTS is to reduce car travel by promoting other modes of transport, particularly in response to historical increases in private motor vehicle usage associated with population growth.

The ILUTS is currently being updated to provide a strategic framework for transport and operational decisions for the Shire, as well as a foundation for more detailed investigations into specific issues for the local employment centres and precincts. Council will support the efficient movement of freight and logistics by protecting and enhancing key movement corridors within the Shire. Opportunities to support smart transport and electric vehicles through car sharing programs and charging infrastructure are also areas for future investigation and potential implementation in our local planning instruments. The new ILUTS is expected to be completed in 2020 in order to guide Council decisions on sustainable traffic and transport needs.

The development of a car parking management strategy is a project within the context of the ILUTS. The *Hornsby Shire Car Parking Management Study* was commenced ahead of the 2019 review of the ILUTS due to Council's requirement for policy direction in this area at an early stage. The Study was commenced in August 2018 to determine options for managing car parking in the Shire and to develop a strategy for the next 10 years to meet the needs of local residents, businesses, visitors and commuters. The Study will review and recommend any needed changes to the parking rates specified in Council's development controls. The Study will also consider options on how current parking facilities in employment centres can be more effectively managed (e.g. time limits, pay versus free, metering, etc.).

Many of our residents enjoy cycling as a form of transport, recreation and sport. Cycling benefits our community's health through improving fitness and by assisting in reducing road congestion and pollution. Bicycle traffic is also good for local shops, with local riders and those from outside our Shire often being repeat customers creating job opportunities for local retail and food services. However, there is a common perception that riding is a dangerous activity. The largest impediment to cycling is not topography, weather or culture, it is the fear of being hit by a car.

The *Greater Sydney Services and Infrastructure Plan* as part of Future Transport 2056, establishes a vision of the "30-minute city" where people can access jobs and services within 30 minutes by public or active transport. It identifies a regional network that looks to connect Hornsby as part of Greater Sydney. This is planned further into the future. Currently the State connectivity focus for bicycles is towards the Eastern Harbour City and Central City. Regional connections that will include Hornsby are projected to be investigated within a 20-year timeframe.

Council recognises that planning for cycling in our Shire needs to focus on the needs of different groups including young children learning to ride, recreational cyclists and those wishing to commute to work, schools or shops. Each of these groups has different priorities and needs and we will need to plan for them differently.

Council has committed to provide safe and environmentally friendly mountain bike facilities. The Hornsby Mountain Bike trail is our first major facility through picturesque bushland in Old Mans Valley, only a short distance from Hornsby Station. This trail provides a unique opportunity to stimulate tourism and recreational spending in addition to the promotion of better health. With the assistance of State Government funding, Council will be working to explore opportunities to expand the trail and provide links to new recreational facilities at Westleigh.

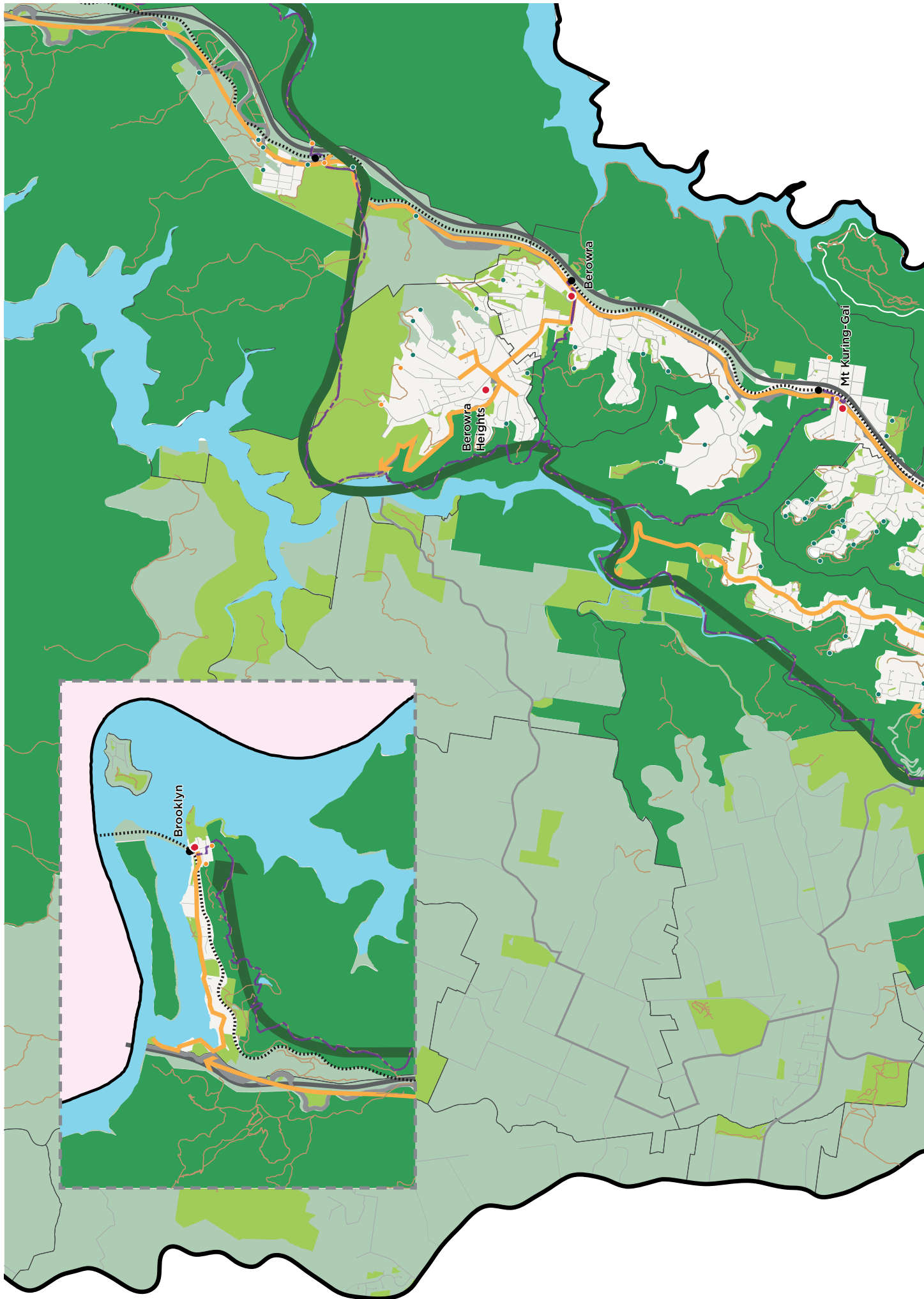
Hornsby Shire is also home to the "three gorges loop" which has become one of Sydney's iconic road rides for more experienced road cyclists. The popular bike ride weaves through the urban and rural areas of the Shire includes Bobbin Head, Berowra Waters and Galston George. Council recognises that the promotion of this cycling attraction provides an opportunity for economic development and community revitalisation as trails have the potential to stimulate tourism and recreation spending.

Council is currently preparing a *Walking and Cycling Strategy*. This strategy is about supporting and improving the liveability of the Shire through walking and cycling. The Strategy will look at opportunities to connect key destinations and facilities including shops, parks, schools, public transport and bushland trails. (Refer to Figure 31) The Strategy will also identify improvements to wayfinding signage and provision of amenities along the routes to contribute to the experience of cycling and as meeting places and seating along circuits and tracks to provide opportunities for people to socialise, rest and catch their breath.



Image credit: Tim Bardsley-Smith – Hornsby Mountain Bike Trail

Key Walking and Cycling Movement Corridors



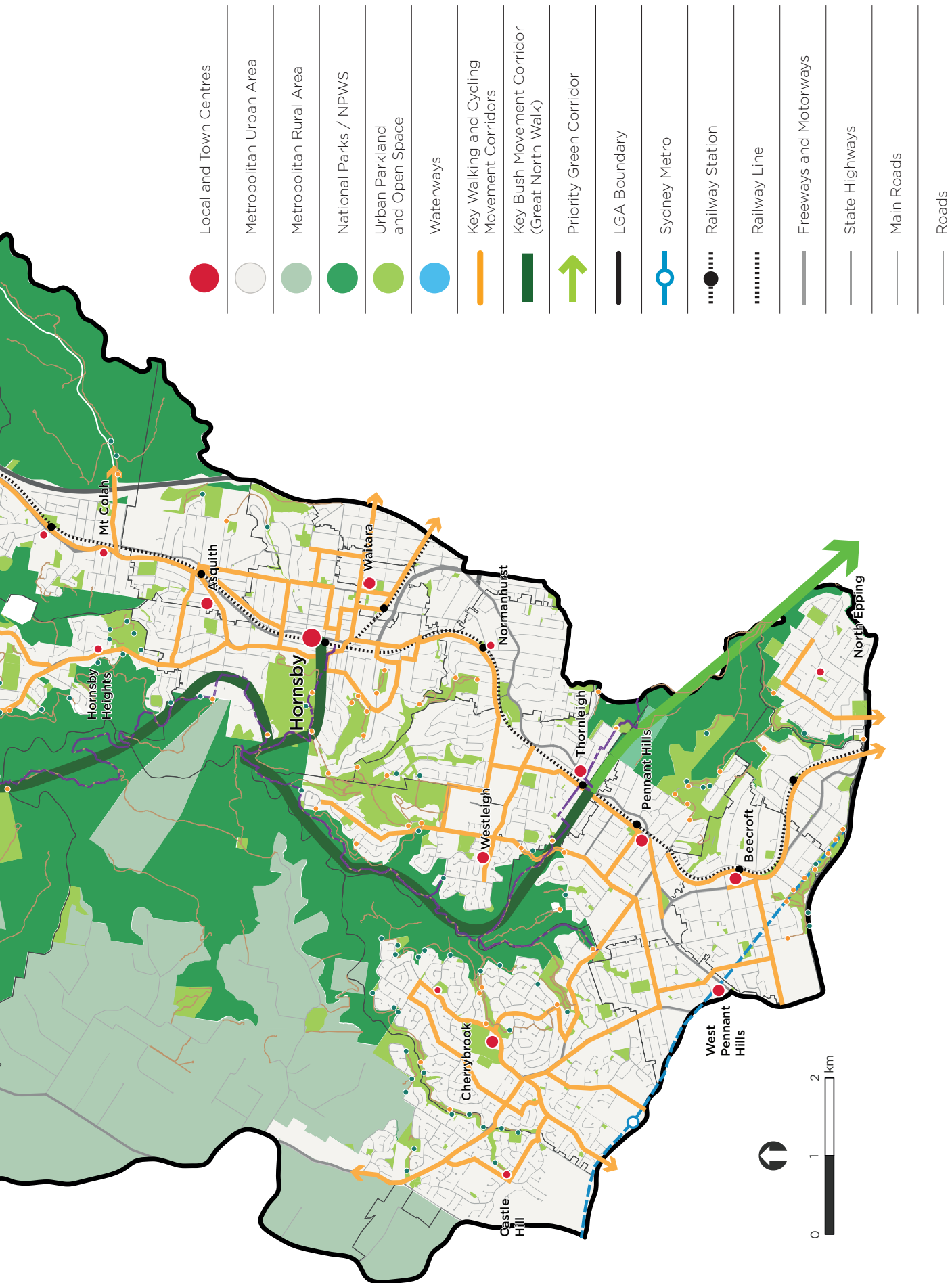


Figure 31 – Key Movement Corridor (Walking and Cycling) Map

What are City-Shaping, City-Serving and Centre-Serving Corridors?

A network of corridors identified in Transport for NSW's Future Transport 2056 strategy that support the efficient movement of people and goods throughout Greater Sydney and include:

- **City-shaping corridors** – major trunk road and public transport corridors providing higher speed and volume connections between our cities and centres that shape locational decisions of residents and businesses.
- **City-serving corridors** – higher density corridors within 10km of metropolitan centres providing high frequency access to metropolitan cities/centres with more frequent stopping patterns.
- **Centre-serving corridors** – local corridors that support buses, walking and cycling, to connect people with their nearest centre and transport interchange.

Our City-Shaping, City-Serving and Centre-Serving Corridors

The Shire has a number of city-serving and city-shaping corridors including Pennant Hills Road, the M1 Freeway and the North Shore, Northern, Central Coast and Newcastle rail lines. The opening of the Sydney Metro Northwest (Cherrybrook Station) and NorthConnex tunnel will benefit the local community and change the way people and goods move across the Shire.

The key infrastructure projects within the Shire include:

- Cherrybrook Station Precinct – Sydney Metro Northwest (now complete);
- NorthConnex (in progress); and
- Hornsby Interchange Commuter Parking (in planning).

Cherrybrook Station Precinct

Sydney Metro Northwest opened in May 2019. Cherrybrook Station is now used by local residents for commutes to the Harbour CBD, Macquarie Park and Norwest Business Park. The State Government has indicated that planning for the State Government-owned land will be prioritised. Council received advice from the Minister for Planning, Industry and Environment in January 2019 regarding the status of the precinct planning for land within the broader Cherrybrook precinct.

In November 2019, the State Government reclassified the State Government-owned land around Cherrybrook Station as a 'State-led Rezoning', with the State Government prioritising planning in this area.

Council will collaborate with the State Government and Landcom concerning planning for government-owned land adjoining the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor and not support proponent-led planning proposals for any other lands within the Cherrybrook Station Precinct until planning for the government-owned lands is completed with an integrated community facilities, open space, transport and infrastructure strategy incorporating the wider precinct.

NorthConnex

NorthConnex is due for completion in 2020. It is expected that traffic on Pennant Hills Road and surrounding local roads will ease and there will be opportunities for different types of land uses and business investments, improved amenity and opportunity for alternative modes of transport.

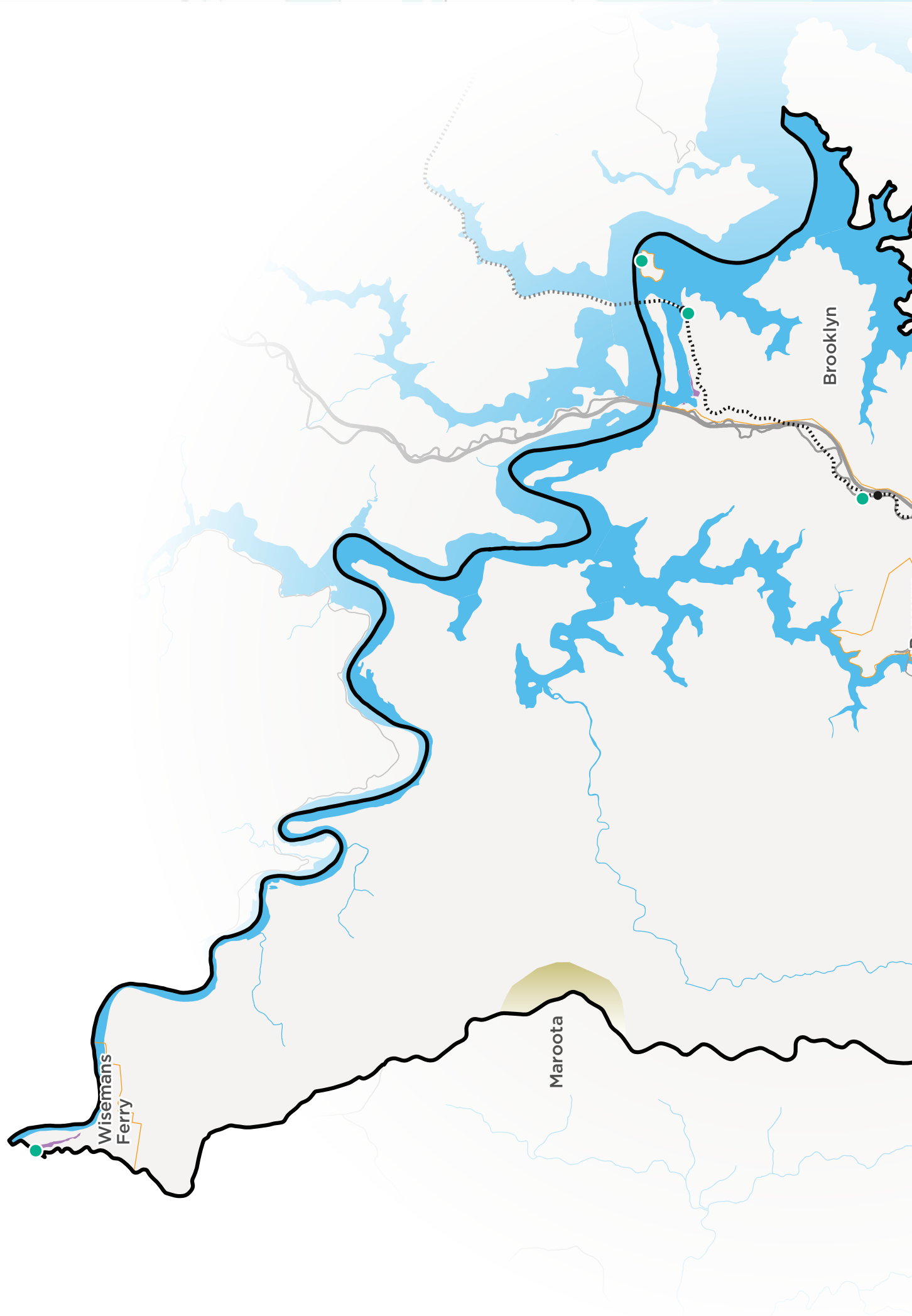
Pennant Hills Town Centre is in need of revitalisation and renewal. A review of the Pennant Hills Road Corridor between Pennant Hills and Thornleigh will be undertaken with a strong place-based approach aimed at improving the amenity and user experience for local residents within the corridor.

Hornsby Interchange Commuter Parking

Hornsby Interchange Commuter Parking is in the planning stage and Council is actively working with Transport for NSW to ensure that this infrastructure investment will support, align and benefit the *Hornsby Town Centre Review* in terms of the location of any commuter car parking.



Productive Areas



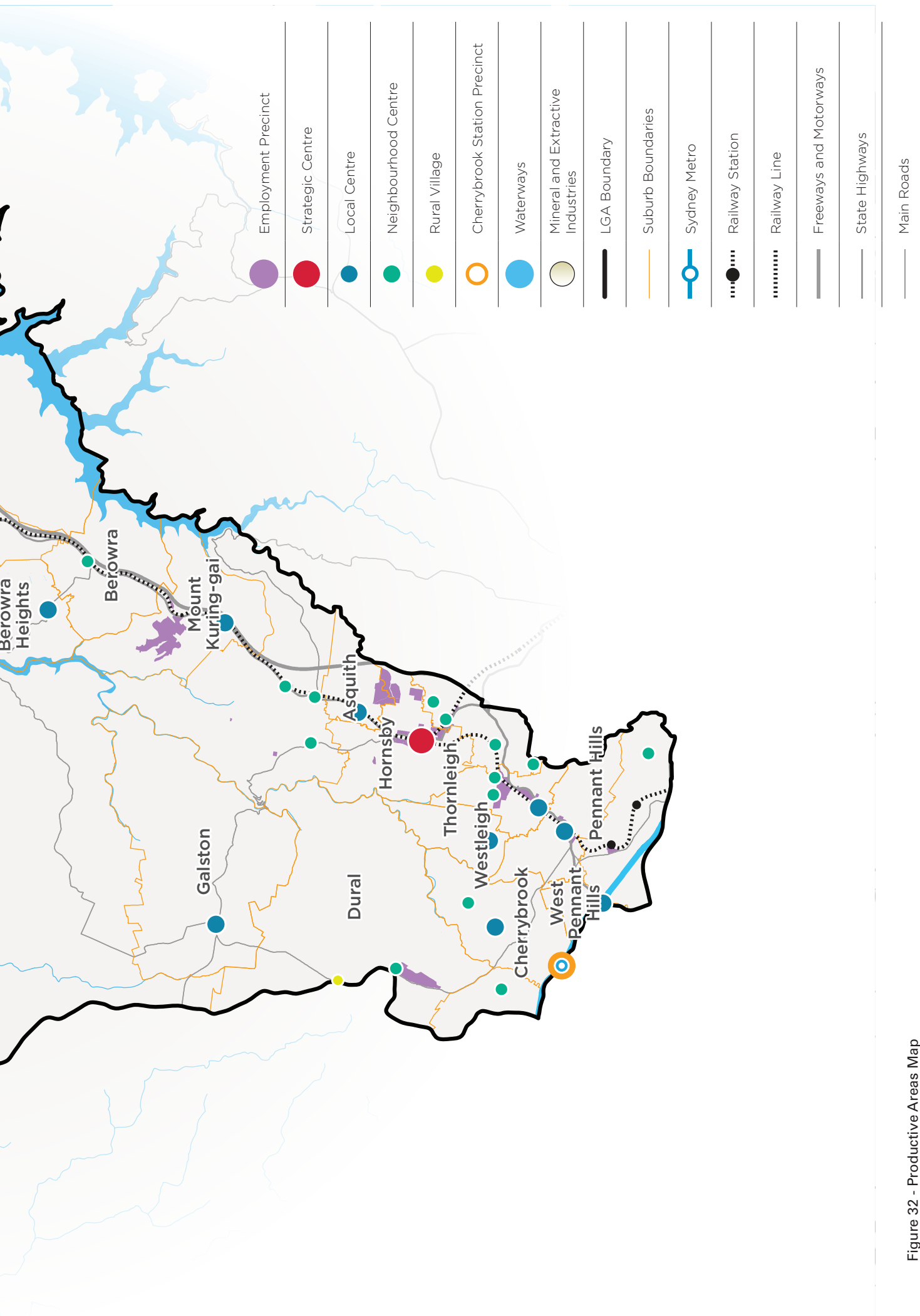


Figure 32 - Productive Areas Map



Our Productive Priorities and Actions

			Alignment	
Our Productive Priorities	Our Productive Actions	Timing	Hornsby Community Strategic Plan	North District Plan
PP1. Revitalisation of Town Centres throughout the Shire.	PA1. Complete the Hornsby Town Centre Review.	Immediate	FA11	N7
			FA12	Action 25
	PA2. Complete the Pennant Hills Town Centre Review.	Immediate	FA13	N8
			FA14	Action 26-28
				N9
				Action 29
				N10
				Action 43 a-e
				N12
				Action 50
PP2. Supporting sustainable economic growth based on the Shire's built and natural assets, infrastructure and locational advantages.	PA3. Finalise Employment Land Use Study and outline actions for a delivery program.	Immediate	FA11	N10
			FA13	Action 40
			FA14	N10
PP3. Focussing economic development in and around existing centres and employment precincts in the Shire, with a key focus on the strategic centre.	PA4. Finalise Economic Development & Tourism Strategy and outline actions for a delivery program.	Immediate		Action 39
				N11
				Action 47-49
PP4. Encouraging innovation and diversification in land identified for the purposes of industrial development and urban services to support economic growth.	PA5. Finalise Walking and Cycling Strategy to promote the '30-minute City' by prioritising connectivity.	Immediate		N13
				Action 37
				Action 54-55
				Action 58-59
PP5. Prioritising local employment opportunities, and improvements to services, amenities, and infrastructure to support the future population.				
PP6. Supporting tourism development opportunities based on the Shire's natural and built features.				
PP7. Supporting place-making initiatives that will complement and improve the function and role of our centres and river settlements.	PA6. Prepare the Brooklyn Place Plan.	Immediate	FA2	N6
	PA7. Advocate to Central Coast Council for detailed analysis of the potential impacts of the Peat Island Planning Proposal on Brooklyn.	Immediate	FA4	Action 19
			FA11	N13
			FA14	Action 58
	PA8. Complete public domain improvements in Asquith to Mount Colah and Galston.	Short Term		

Legend

Immediate – Current Delivery Program (2019-2021)

Short Term – Next Delivery Program (2021-2025)

Medium Term – Delivery Program (2025-2029)

Long Term – Beyond 2029

Collaborative

“

Working to serve
our community, we will
listen, be accountable
and efficient.”

”

This chapter identifies the key opportunities for collaboration and partnership on strategic planning projects within Hornsby Shire. Collaboration with our community, key stakeholder, and State agencies and departments is critical to the success of projects that will help shape Hornsby Shire over the next 20 years.

North District Plan Directions

A city supported
by infrastructure

Infrastructure
supporting new
developments



A collaborative
city

Working together
to grow a
Greater Sydney



Our Community Priorities

- 4.1** The community is encouraged to participate in Council's decision making
- 4.2** Information about Council and its decisions is clear and accessible
- 4.3** Council plans well to secure the community's long term future

(Hornsby Community Strategic Plan 2018-2028)

Introduction

The Shire has a number of local and State-led projects that are dependent upon the collaboration of all stakeholders to deliver their intended outcomes. The following projects have been identified as the key areas where collaboration and partnership are critical to success.

Accelerated LEP Review

Council has committed to an ambitious and comprehensive review of a number of technical studies under the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Accelerated Local Environmental Plan Review program (Accelerated LEP Review).

The projects and supporting studies were identified by Council in response to feedback received through community consultation in 2018 for the Community Strategic Plan *Your Vision Your Future 2018-2028*. The projects and supporting studies are therefore a reflection of our community values and priorities, and include:

1. Environmental Sustainability Strategy

- 1.1. Urban Forest Strategy
- 1.2. Water Sensitive Hornsby
- 1.3. Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan update
- 1.4. Urban Heat Mapping
- 1.5. Climate Change Adaptation

2. Comprehensive Heritage Study

- 2.1. Heritage Action Plan

3. Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan update

4. Hornsby Town Centre Review

5. Local Housing Strategy

6. Active Living Strategy

- 6.1. Play Plan
- 6.2. Walking and Cycling Strategy

7. Rural Lands Study

8. Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

- 8.1. Employment Land Use Study

The majority of the above projects commenced in early 2019 with limited general consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement on specific matters. The public exhibition period between 14 August and 16 October 2019 for the LSPS provided the first consolidated community engagement opportunity on draft studies that have been completed. Future community engagement on final drafts of technical studies will continue throughout early 2020.

The following stakeholders are identified as priorities in the immediate and short-term as critical points of collaboration: (Refer to Figure 33)

1. Our Local Community

Projects:

- LSPS all projects
- Brooklyn Place Plan
- Pennant Hills Place Plan

2. Our Local Aboriginal Community

The Hornsby Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (HATSICC) consider any matters involving Aboriginal heritage or culture. Our priority is to better understand and improve planning outcomes for our local Aboriginal community.

We will collaborate with the local Darug and Guringai language groups through the public exhibition of the LSPS to ensure their feedback and priorities are incorporated into the final version of the document. By better collaborating with our local Aboriginal community we can set in place an ongoing partnership to promote and facilitate the sustainable management of its land.

3. Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council

NSROC have hosted Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) meetings with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) as part of the Northern Planners Group.

The MLALC has identified the following draft principles for engagement on matters of significance to the Aboriginal communities within Greater Sydney, which include:

- 1. Engagement with Local Aboriginal Land Councils in strategic planning;
- 2. Identify how Aboriginal land can be planned, managed and developed;
- 3. Improve planning outcomes for Aboriginal communities;
- 4. Unlock economic potential for Aboriginal owned land;
- 5. To recognise that the land is of spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to Aboriginal people.
- 6. Council will continue to actively participate in the NSROC consultation as the LSPS is developed.

4. Federal Government

Project: New Line Road, Dural

The Federal Government announced \$10 million of funding towards planning work for the upgrade of New Line Road, Dural. Council will confirm the status of the funding with the Federal Government and advocate for the delivery of upgrades that address existing traffic congestion and will not facilitate urban release in the Metropolitan Rural Area.

5. Central Coast Council

Project: Peat Island Planning Proposal. Council continues to advocate for additional information relating to the potential impacts of the Peat Island Planning Proposal particularly on Brooklyn and other riverside areas.

6. State Government Departments and Agencies

Project: Hornsby Town Centre Review

To achieve a transformation of the scale envisioned for the *Hornsby Town Centre Review* we will be working closely with key stakeholders within Hornsby Town Centre and a range of State Government Departments and Agencies. Successful delivery of the key outcomes will require partnership and collaboration throughout the life of the project.

7. Department of Education

Project: Open Space – public use

Council will work with the Department of Education to improve public accessibility to ovals, sportsgrounds and other open space facilities throughout the Shire.

Project: Facilities – public use

Council will work with the Department of Education to improve public accessibility to school halls, performing arts centres and other facilities throughout the Shire.

8. Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Project: Cherrybrook Station Precinct

Council will collaborate with the State Government and Landcom concerning planning for government-owned land adjoining the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor and not support proponent-led planning proposals for any other lands within the Cherrybrook Station Precinct until planning for the government-owned lands is completed with an integrated community facilities, open space, transport and infrastructure strategy incorporating the wider precinct.

Project: Low-rise Medium Density Housing Code

The planning controls in the Code are inconsistent with Council's local planning approach of encouraging medium density housing within a landscape setting. We will advocate for a Low-Rise Medium Density Housing Code that considers our local character and local circumstances and the principles and locational criteria for housing on page 30.

9. Transport for NSW

Project: Hornsby Interchange Commuter Parking

Hornsby Interchange Commuter Parking is in the planning stage and Council is actively working with Transport for NSW to ensure that this infrastructure investment will support, align and benefit from the *Hornsby Town Centre Review* in terms of the location of commuter car parking.

Project: Outer Sydney Orbital

Early investigations are underway for the recommended corridor of the Outer Sydney Orbital. Future investigations for connections to the Central Coast will require collaboration between TfNSW, the Hills Shire Council, Central Coast Council, Hawkesbury Council and Hornsby Council.

Project: Fast Rail Network

Early investigations have commenced for a Fast Rail Network linking Metropolitan Sydney with Regional NSW. Council will collaborate with Transport for NSW and Central Coast Council as investigations progress.

Project: Road Network Plans

- Opportunities for additional capacity along George Street (Pacific Highway), Hornsby;
- Future upgrades to Old Northern Road and New Line Road, Dural to address existing traffic congestion and not to facilitate urban release in the Metropolitan Rural Area.

Project: NorthConnex

Following the opening of the NorthConnex project in 2020, Council will work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Transport for NSW to commence early investigations into the Pennant Hills Road Corridor.

10. Destination NSW

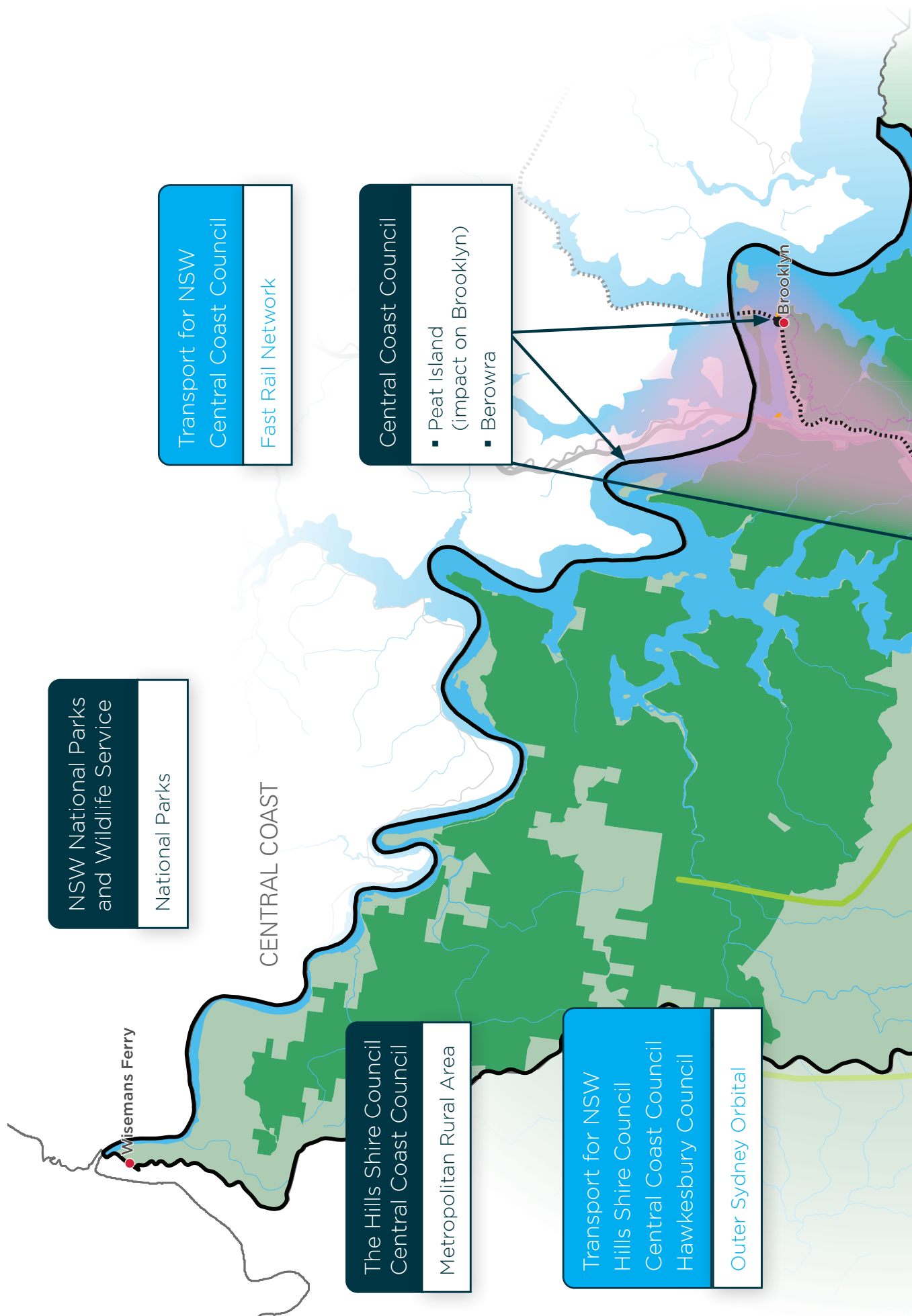
Project: Economic Development and Tourism Strategy

The preparation of an updated *Economic Development and Tourism Strategy* will include the identification of key tourism assets and opportunities to sustainability promote, improve and manage their function and appeal. Destination NSW will be consulted to seek their feedback on the Strategy and to discuss potential State funding for tourism assets that have regional and State significance.

11. Ku-ring-gai, The Hills, City of Parramatta, Northern Beaches, Ryde, Hawkesbury and Central Coast Councils

Council will collaborate with all adjoining councils on projects that will improve connectivity throughout the District, access to open space and sports facilities, and planning for schools and social infrastructure.

Collaborative Projects



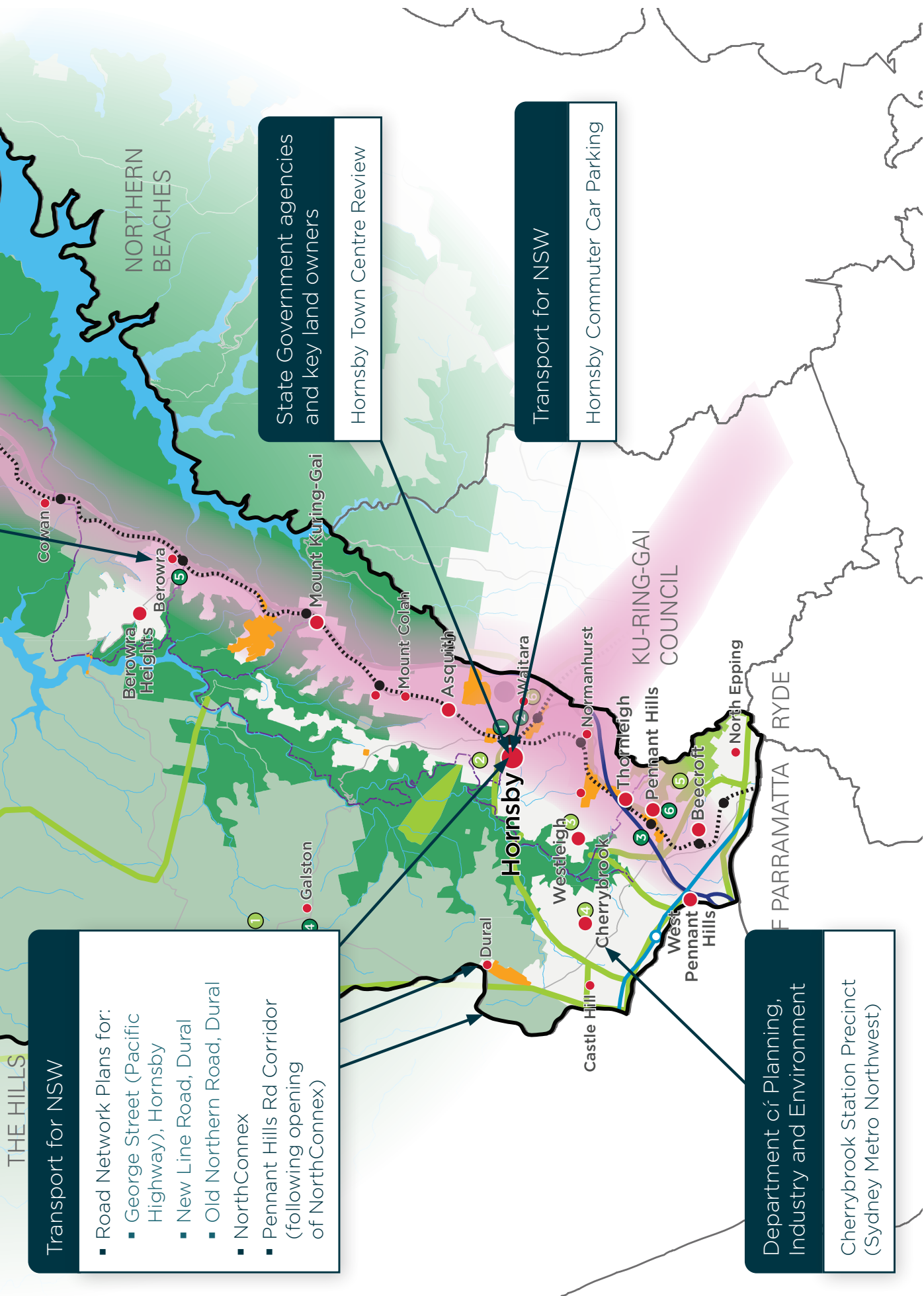


Figure 33 – Collaborative Projects Map

Our Collaborative Priorities and Actions

			Alignment	
Our Collaborative Priorities	Our Collaborative Actions	Timing	Hornsby Community Strategic Plan	North District Plan
CP1. Resolving the local and regional infrastructure issues facing Cherrybrook and surrounding areas as a result of the opening of Cherrybrook Metro Station.	CA1. Advocate to the State Government regarding the status and finalisation of the updated Structure Plan for the Cherrybrook Station Precinct.	Immediate	FA15 FA16 FA18 FA20	N1 Action 1 Action 2
	CA2: Collaborate with the State Government and Landcom concerning planning for government-owned land adjoining the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor and not support proponent-led planning proposals for any other lands within the Cherrybrook Station Precinct until planning for the government-owned lands is completed with an integrated community facilities, open space, transport and infrastructure strategy incorporating the wider precinct.	Ongoing		
CP2. Investigating potential placed-based opportunities aimed at improving the amenity and public spaces for local residents throughout the Shire.	CA3. Commence a review of the Pennant Hills Road Corridor, subsequent to the opening of NorthConnex.	Medium Term	FA17 FA18	N1 Action 1 Action 2
	CA4. Finalise the Brooklyn Place Plan.	Immediate		
	CA5. Finalise the Pennant Hills Place Plan.	Immediate		
CP3. Delivering substantial improvements to the function, design and accessibility of State infrastructure assets within town centres throughout the Shire.	CA6. Continue to collaborate with key partners on the Hornsby Town Centre Review.	Ongoing	FA15 FA 18	N1 Action 3
	CA7. Deliver the public domain improvements in the Galston and Asquith to Mount Colah Town Centres.	Short Term		
CP4. Partnering with HATSICC to improve planning outcomes for our Aboriginal community.	CA8. Collaborate with HATSICC to better understand the aspirations of the local Aboriginal community and the management and use of its land.	Ongoing	FA15 FA16 FA17	N4 Action 14
	CA9. Participate in the NSROC joint consultation with the MLALC.	Ongoing	FA18 FA20	

Legend

Immediate – Current Delivery Program (2019-2021)

Short-Term – Next Delivery Program (2021-2025)

Medium-Term – Delivery Program (2025-2029)

Long-Term – Beyond 2029

Implementation

The LSPS identifies priorities and actions that have implications for a range of Council plans. Setting out a clear plan for implementing, measuring and reporting on these priorities and actions will be a key success factor for the LSPS.

Accelerated LEP Review

As previously noted, Council has committed to the Accelerated Local Environmental Plan Review program, which includes the preparation of a range of studies that will inform future changes to our local land use plans, strategies and policies. The immediate and short-term focus will be the finalisation and implementation of these technical studies and strategies. The implementation, monitoring and reporting elements of these priority studies and strategies is outlined below.

Review of LSPS

The LSPS is required to be reviewed every seven years in accordance with Section 3.9 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. However, the work currently in preparation under the Accelerated LEP Review program will inform a significant update to the LSPS in 2020.

The following implementation program details the following:

1. Relevant Council Plans – the local plans, policies and/or strategies that may need to be updated to reflect the outcomes and recommendations of the associated action.
2. Key Performance Indicators – identified timeframe, milestones and/or outcomes.
3. Expected Timeframe – program for reporting to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to monitor progress.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the LSPS will be undertaken through Council's established Integrated Planning and Reporting framework and will also be informed by the most recent publicly available data in 'The Pulse of Greater Sydney – Measuring what matters in the Metropolis'.

Legend

LHS	Hornsby Local Housing Strategy update
HTCR	Hornsby Town Centre Review
LSPS	Hornsby Local Strategic Planning Statement
HLEP2013	Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013
HDCP2013	Hornsby Development Control Plan 2013
7.12 Plan	Hornsby 7.12 Development Contributions Plan 2019-2029
7.11 Plan	Hornsby 7.11 Development Contributions Plan 2014-2024
ESS	Environmental Sustainability Strategy

			Measures
Liveable Priorities and Actions	Relevant Council Plans	Key Performance Indicators	Expected Timeframe
LP1. Protecting the character of our low density neighbourhoods.			
LA1. Continue with a concentrated housing model in existing housing precincts as identified in Figure 15.	LHS	Updated LSPS	2020
LA2. Focus future housing opportunities in the Hornsby Town Centre.	HTCR	Completed HTCR	2020
LA3. Council continue to advocate for changes to State policy for medium density housing to enable Council to progress its own strategy that reflects local character.	Further strategic work required	Seek State Government response	Ongoing
LA4. If Council is provided the option to prepare local controls for medium density housing that are reflective of the landscape setting of the Shire, investigations could commence into appropriate expansion of the R3 Medium Density zone.	Further strategic work required	Seek State Government response	Ongoing
LP2. Promoting design excellence for new housing.			
LA5. Prepare and adopt the Design Excellence Planning Proposal and forward to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for a Gateway Determination.	HLEP2013	Adopted planning proposal	December 2019
LA6. Work with the State Government to make changes to State Environmental Planning Policies and Design Guides for the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code and Apartment Design Guide.	Further strategic work required	Seek State Government response	Ongoing
LP3. Supporting the development of community and cultural facilities that will adequately service our current and future community.			
LA7. Investigate value sharing models and options that can deliver social infrastructure and other community benefits.	HTCR LHS	Finalised HTCR and LHS	2020/21
LA8. Finalise the update of the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
LP4. Aligning the delivery of local infrastructure and public domain improvements with current and future growth.			
LA9. Finalise Public Domain Guidelines and Signage Strategy.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
LA10. Finalise the Hornsby 7.12 Development Contributions Plan 2019-2029.	7.12 Plan	Adopted 7.12 Plan	2019
LA11. Finalise the draft Hornsby 7.11 Development Contributions Plan 2019-2029 for public exhibition.	7.11 Plan	Adopted 7.11 Plan	2020

Measures

Liveable Priorities and Actions	Relevant Council Plans	Key Performance Indicators	Expected Timeframe
LP5. Protecting, conserving and promoting our natural, built and cultural heritage.			
LA12. Prioritise and adopt recommendations from the Hornsby Heritage Action Plan 2019.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
LA13. Develop consultant brief for the Comprehensive Heritage Study based on the findings of Action LA12.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
LA14. Undertake the tasks to complete Hornsby Comprehensive Heritage Study.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
LP6. Providing housing in the right locations that meets the needs of our community with regard to housing type and mix, design, sustainability, affordability and safety.			
LA15. Finalise the Hornsby Town Centre Review and incorporate relevant findings and recommendations into a future update to the Hornsby Local Housing Strategy.	LHS	Finalised LHS	2020
LA16. Finalise an update to the Hornsby Local Housing Strategy including a local character statement for public exhibition.	LHS	Finalised LHS	2020
LA17. Prioritise the findings and recommendations from the Affordable Housing Discussion Paper including the preparation of an affordable rental housing scheme under SEPP 70.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
LA18. Work with the Rural Fire Service to support protection of life and property with no additional density increases north of Yirra Road, Mount Colah until the RFS has developed a Bushfire Risk Evaluation Model and Management Planning for the Shire and confirmed its position regarding development north of Yirra Road.	Further strategic work required	Finalised Bushfire Risk Evacuation Model and Management Plan	Ongoing
LP7. Promoting the arts, creative industries and temporary uses as well as the night-time economy.			
LA19. Consider the potential for the night-time economy in the Hornsby Town Centre Review, Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, Pennant Hills Place Plan and other opportunities across the Shire	HTCR LSPS	Completed HTCR Updated LSPS	2020

Measures

Sustainable Priorities and Actions	Relevant Council Plans	Key Performance Indicators	Expected Timeframe
SP1. Improving the overall health of our natural environment and ecosystem.			
SP2. Protecting and increasing the extent and quality of natural areas in Hornsby Shire			
SA1. Incorporate feedback received through the community and stakeholder engagement for Environmental Sustainability conducted in early 2019 and through the public exhibition period of the LSPS.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SA2. Develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy which will provide an overarching framework to address environmental sustainability issues facing the Shire. This strategy will cover the areas of Urban Forest, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Walking & Cycling, Waste, and Water Sensitive Cities and Urban Heat.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SP3. Protecting and improving the health of catchments and waterways and deliver well planned and designed local water infrastructure solutions.			
SA3. Complete the Coastal Management Plan Scoping Study for the Hawkesbury Estuary.	Further strategic work required	Finalised Coastal Management Plan Scoping Study	2020
SA4. Finalise the Water Sensitive Hornsby project.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SP4. Improving connectivity between natural areas.			
SP5. Embedding biodiversity conservation principles throughout local planning policies.			
SA5. Finalise the Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan and associated Action Plan.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SA6. Audit local planning policies and incorporate, where needed, with biodiversity conservation principles.	HLEP2013 HDGP2013	Updated HLEP2013 HDGP2013	2020
SP6. Increasing urban tree canopy cover, develop cooler, greener places and strengthen connections to the Green Grid.			
SA7. Finalise the Urban Forest Strategy.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SA8. Commence a review of the Pennant Hills Road corridor between Pennant Hills and Thornleigh following the opening of NorthConnex.	Further strategic work required	TBD	2020
SP7. Mitigating the effects of urban heat.			
SA9. Develop a regional Urban Heat Policy in conjunction with Northern Sydney councils.	Further strategic work required	Finalised regional Urban Heat Policy	Ongoing
SA10. Implement actions from Urban Forest Strategy.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SP8. Maintaining and enhancing the environmental, economic and scenic values of the Metropolitan Rural Areas of Hornsby.			
SA11. Finalise the Rural Lands Study.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	Ongoing
SA12: Continue to partner with the Greater Sydney Commission to advocate for changes to State planning policy to deliver an appropriate outcome for seniors housing that will protect rural lands.	Further strategic work required	Updated LSPS	Ongoing

Measures

Sustainable Priorities and Actions	Relevant Council Plans	Key Performance Indicators	Expected Timeframe
SP9. Reducing carbon emissions and managing energy, water and waste efficiently.			
SA13. Finalise Waste Strategy.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
SA14. Implement actions from Water Sensitive Hornsby.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
SP10. Ensuring inclusive play experiences are available across the Shire providing playgrounds that are diverse in their design, exciting, challenging and safe for all.			
SA15. Finalise the Hornsby Play Plan and outline actions for a delivery program	LSPS	Finalised HPP	2020
SP11. Providing healthy, connected and inclusive infrastructure and facilities.			
SA16. Update the Active Living Strategy incorporating the findings of the Hornsby Play Plan, Walking and Cycling Strategy and Hornsby Sportsground Strategy.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
SP12. Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of urban and natural climate change. SP13. Reducing carbon emissions and air pollution, and managing energy water and waste efficiently. SP14. Improving our community and corporate use of energy and water.			
SA17 Finalise Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SA18. Integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation actions into the future Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
SP15. Protecting our community from natural hazards.			
SA19. Assess current and future risk from coastal hazards as part of the Hawkesbury River Coastal Management Program.	Further strategic work required	Finalised regional Urban Heat Policy	Ongoing
SA20. Contribute to the periodic review of the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bushfire Risk Management Plan.	LSPS	Updated Bushfire Risk Management Plan	2020
SA21. Finalise Hornsby Bushfire Management Strategy.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SA22. Advocate in partnership with the Rural Fire Service to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and Greater Sydney Commission regarding funding for the progression of a Bushfire Evacuation Model for the Shire.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020
SA23. Finalise Hornsby Flood Plain Risk Management Plan.	ESS	Finalised ESS	2020

Measures

Productive Priorities and Actions	Relevant Council Plans	Key Performance Indicators	Expected Timeframe
PP1. Revitalisation of Town Centres throughout the Shire.			
PA1. Complete the Hornsby Town Centre Review.	LSPS	Finalised HTCR	2020
PA2. Complete the Pennant Hills Town Centre Review.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
PP2. Supporting sustainable economic growth based on the Shire's built and natural assets, infrastructure and locational advantages. PP3. Focussing economic development in and around existing centres and employment precincts in the Shire, with a key focus on the strategic centre. PP4. Encouraging innovation and diversification in land identified for the purposes of industrial development and urban services to support economic growth. PP5. Prioritising local employment opportunities, and improvements to services, amenities, and infrastructure to support the future population. PP6. Supporting tourism development opportunities based on the Shire's natural and built features.			
PA3. Finalise Employment Land Use Study and outline actions for a delivery program.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
PA4. Finalise Economic Development & Tourism Strategy and outline actions for a delivery program.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
PA5. Finalise Walking and Cycling Strategy to promote the '30-minute City' by prioritising connectivity.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
PP7. Supporting place-making initiatives that will complement and improve the function and role of our centres and river settlements.			
PA6. Prepare the Brooklyn Place Plan.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
PA7. Advocate to Central Coast Council for detailed analysis of the potential impacts of the Peat Island Planning Proposal on Brooklyn.	Further strategic work required	Additional analysis provided to Council	Ongoing
PA8. Complete public domain improvements in Asquith and Galston.	7.11 Plan 7.12 Plan	Updated 7.11 and 7.12 Plans	2021/25

Measures

Collaborative Priorities and Actions	Relevant Council Plans	Key Performance Indicators	Expected Timeframe
CP1. Resolving the local and regional infrastructure issues facing Cherrybrook and surrounding areas as a result of the opening of Cherrybrook Metro Station.			
CA1. Advocate to the State Government regarding the status and finalisation of the updated Structure Plan for the Cherrybrook Station Precinct.	LSPS	Finalised HTCR	2020
CA2: Collaborate with the State Government and Landcom concerning planning for government-owned land adjoining the Sydney Metro Northwest corridor and not support proponent-led planning proposals for any other lands within the Cherrybrook Station Precinct until planning for the government-owned lands is completed with an integrated community facilities, open space, transport and infrastructure strategy incorporating the wider precinct.	Further strategic work required	Seek State Government response	Ongoing
CP2. Investigating potential placed-based opportunities aimed at improving the amenity and public spaces for local residents throughout the Shire.			
CA3. Commence a review of the Pennant Hills Road Corridor, subsequent to the opening of NorthConnex.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
CA4. Finalise the Brooklyn Place Plan.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
CA5. Finalise the Pennant Hills Place Plan.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
CP3. Delivering substantial improvements to the function, design and accessibility of State infrastructure assets within town centres throughout the Shire.			
CA6. Continue to collaborate with key partners on the Hornsby Town Centre Review.	HTCR	Finalised HTCR	2020
CA7. Deliver the public domain improvements in Galston and Asquith to Mount Colah Town Centres.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2021-25
CP4. Partnering with HATSICC to improve planning outcomes for our Aboriginal community.			
CA8. Collaborate with HATSICC to better understand the aspirations of the local Aboriginal community and the management and use of its land.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020
CA9. Participate in the NSROC joint consultation with the MLALC.	LSPS	Updated LSPS	2020

