



# *Open Space and Parklands*

Liveability in the Northern Sydney Region

*Fiona Morrison , Commissioner Open Space and Parklands  
7 February 2019*







# *Opportunities to Collaborate* ○



## *Everyone Can Play*

Play is for everyone.

Our playspaces should be too.

Playspaces exist at the heart of our neighbourhoods and should cater for everyone – young and old, families and carers, and people of all abilities.

Playspaces should be welcoming and comfortable, easy to navigate and interesting. They should offer a range of physical challenges, a variety of landscape settings to explore, and provide opportunities to connect with others.

**Let's ensure Everyone Can Play in NSW.**

Everyone Can Play is not a new standard, but it is our commitment to the future of play in NSW.







## *Everyone Can Play*

- \$20 million for inclusive play to be allocated over five years
- Everyone Can Play Grant Program – Round 1 launched November 2018
- Accelerated Open Space Program partnering with NSROC Councils to delivery inclusive play
- Developing a toolkit to educate an promote best practice inclusive play projects – featuring projects completed by NSROC Councils including Northern Beaches and Willoughby
- Close to 440 playspaces in NSROC region





## *5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney*

Our goal is to increase the urban tree canopy of Greater Sydney to 40%

Currently Greater Sydney has an urban tree canopy of 16.8%

As a step towards the realisation of a 40% canopy, the 5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney program was launched to promote tree planting across all areas of Greater Sydney.





## ***5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney***

- \$37.5 million for inclusive play to be allocated over four years
- 5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney Grant Program – Round 1 launched November 2018
- Launch of the *Tree Counter* of the 5MT website – with NSROC Councils contributing to the tally

# *Research and Understanding*





- Canopy mapping completed in 2018 to act as the baseline for the 5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney Program
- DPE will be using this data as the baseline for measuring the realisation of 40% canopy across Greater Sydney
- The canopy results have been shared with Councils across NSW
- The canopy measurement was used as a method of prioritising the grant funding under the 5 Million Trees for Greater Sydney Program Grant Program

## *Understanding the changes to Private Open Space and how this influences planning for Public Open Space*





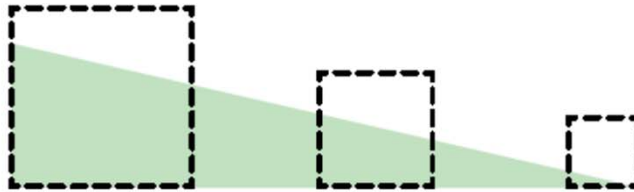
## Case Study Trends:



### We have less open space than we used to

Private open space per dwelling peaked in the 1970s and has been decreasing ever since. Conversely, public open space has generally been increasing.

In 1970, the average open space per dwelling was 342sqm; by 2010 it had dropped to 177sqm.



### Lot sizes are shrinking

Lots in the early decades of our case studies were generally between 700 and 900 sqm. More recently, they are typically 200-400 sqm, and the rate of shrinkage appears to be speeding up.



### Houses are getting bigger

While lot sizes were reducing, housing sizes were increasing.

From an average of 100sqm in 1950 to about 240sqm in 2012. After 2012, as house prices started to increase a bigger lot / house offering was seen as too expensive, house sizes reduced a little.

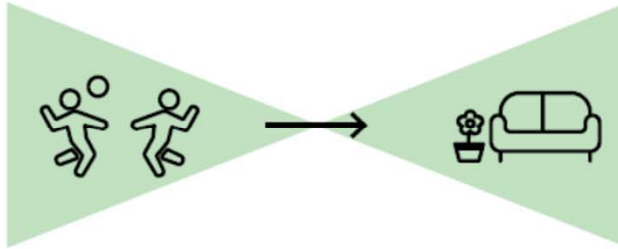
## Case Study Trends:



### Increasing diversity of housing typology

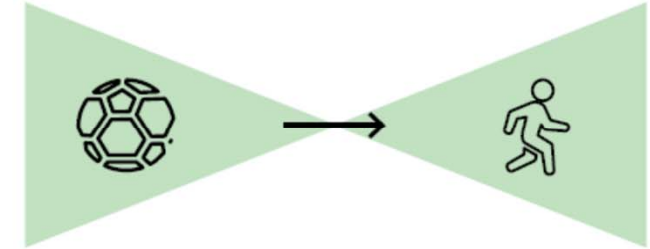
A comparison of the case studies showed the range of housing typologies has expanded.

Early developments primarily provided detached dwelling houses. Broadly speaking, housing typologies have shifted to denser forms.



### The function of private open space has changed

Private open space was designed for a use different to those within the home. Larger back yards allowed for children's play alongside clothes drying, gardening (for food) etc. Now, they are more often treated as an extension of the living / dining spaces of a house and an opportunity to bring the outside in.



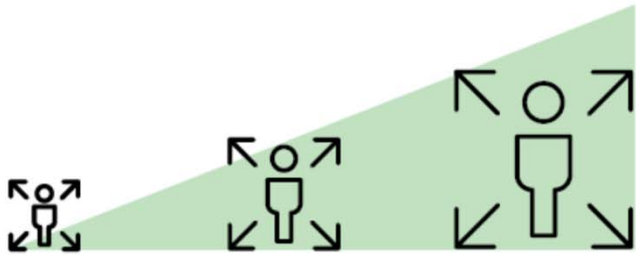
### The nature of recreational activity has changed

Through the decades of our case studies, the type, size and configuration of open space changed to variously reflect a focus on organised sports or incidental and passive recreation.

Data suggests that more people are active, but fewer people are playing sport.



## Case Study Trends:



### **Society has become more diverse**

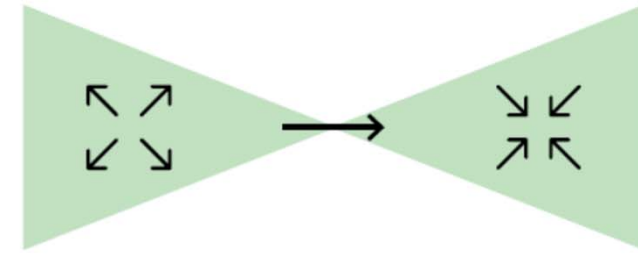
Our household types look different than they did 60 years ago. We also have a wider range of subdivision patterns, lot sizes, housing types and sizes, and private open spaces.

Our population is larger and denser as well as more diverse.



### **Our open spaces are also becoming more diverse**

We expect more from our open spaces. The case studies showed us that many open spaces are provided with walking tracks, play areas, large flexible areas suitable for either organised sport or kicking a ball around. From the 1990s onwards the case studies typically featured BBQ areas, shade shelters, seating and toilets



### **Urban subdivision patterns impact open space use**

The case studies with a curvilinear street pattern and back fences along the edges of open space corridors. All of the case studies from the 2000s delivered well-located public open spaces: they are the focus of the development, with houses looking out to them, streets activating them, and are close to or even feature some kind of community facility..

# *Planning for the future of Open Space and Canopy*



*Department of Planning and Environment*





# ST LEONARDS CROWS NEST DRAFT GREEN PLAN

Prepared for the Department of Planning & Environment October 2018

## *Green Plans*

- Provides a framework for the provision of new open space and open space infrastructure, together with an integrated urban tree canopy network and green links.
- Sets a foundation for future decisions to be made, strengthening the open space network and providing for the recreation needs of the community now and into the future.
- Promote the expansion of the private urban tree canopy.



## OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATION

Establish an interconnected network of open spaces that are flexible, diverse, safe and equitable to meet the community's needs for recreation space and foster the community's values for healthy, vibrant and active living.



## OPEN SPACE FOR BIODIVERSITY

Enhance the natural identity of the landscape and harbour-to-harbour biodiversity corridors to provide a range of environmental and social benefits.



## URBAN TREE CANOPY

Reinforce urban tree canopy in the public domain to maximise comfort and enhance the liveability, health and well-being of both the community and the environment.

### PEOPLE



#### PRINCIPLE 1 COMMUNITY NEED

Deliver a high quality public domain aligned with the community's needs



#### PRINCIPLE 2 HUMAN SCALE

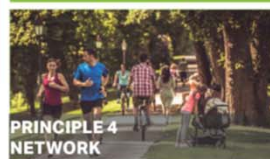
Plan for people-oriented spaces and streets to prioritise pedestrians



#### PRINCIPLE 3 LOCAL IDENTITY

Enhance the local character and identity to create a strong sense of place

### NATURE



#### PRINCIPLE 4 NETWORK

Create a network of open space to enhance biodiversity and connectivity



#### PRINCIPLE 5 QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Maintain and improve the quality and quantity of future open space



#### PRINCIPLE 6 HIERARCHY

Clarify the open space hierarchy and establish clear focal points

### HEALTH



#### PRINCIPLE 7 EQUITY

Ensure equitable access to open space to increase its usage and functionality



#### PRINCIPLE 8 SAFETY

Provide a safe, comfortable environment to encourage activation and vibrancy



#### PRINCIPLE 9 WELLNESS

Promote active and healthy living to contribute to the well-being of the community

### ECONOMY



#### PRINCIPLE 10 FLEXIBILITY

Design for flexibility and adaptability to cater for the future population



#### PRINCIPLE 11 DELIVERY

Facilitate a coordinated, strategic delivery and provision of open space



#### PRINCIPLE 12 FUNDING

Optimise funding of open space through innovative financing models



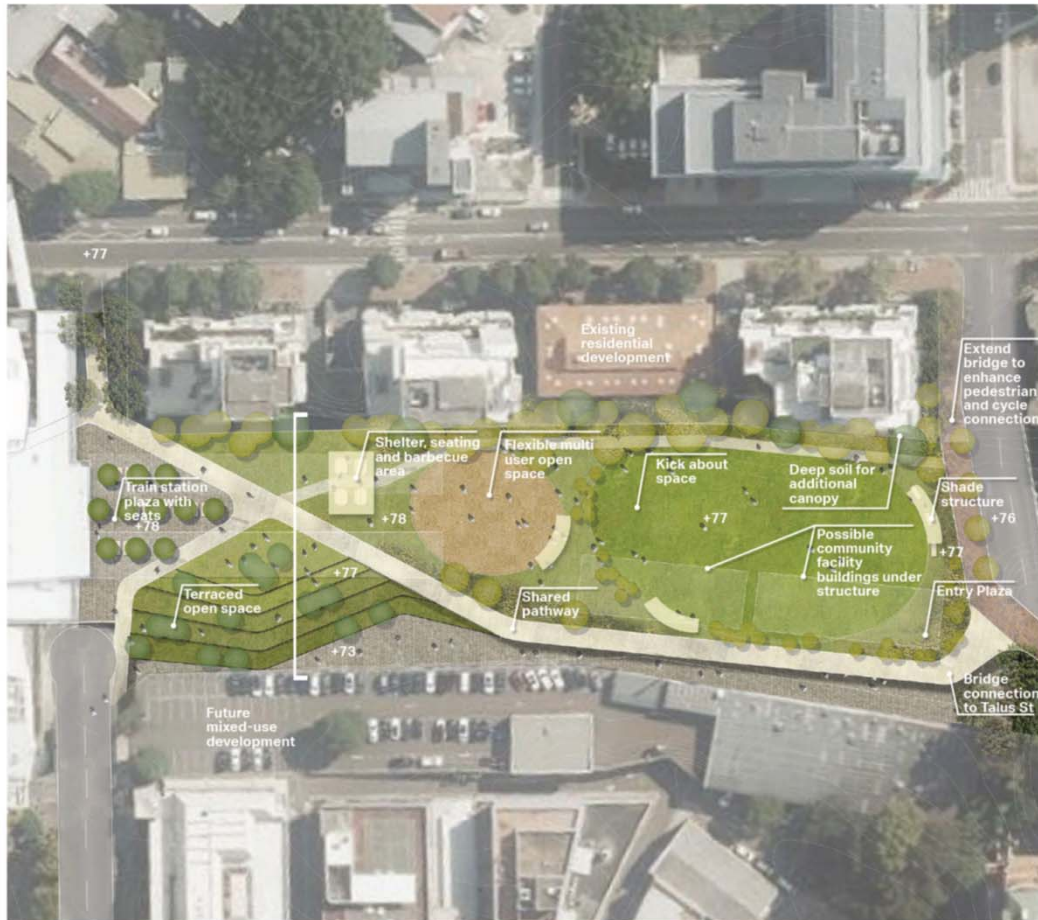


Figure 21: Platform Park Concept Plan (Source: AECOM, 2018)

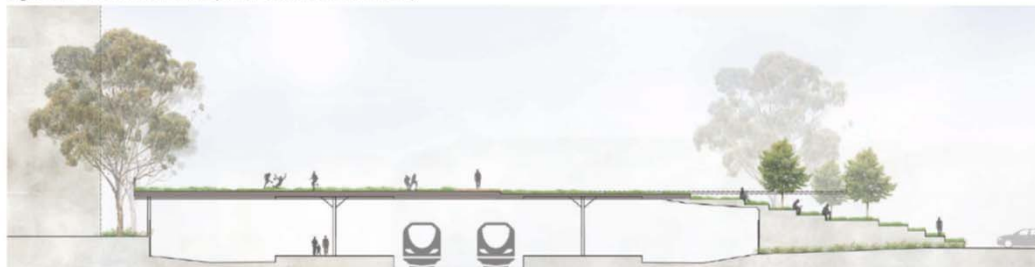


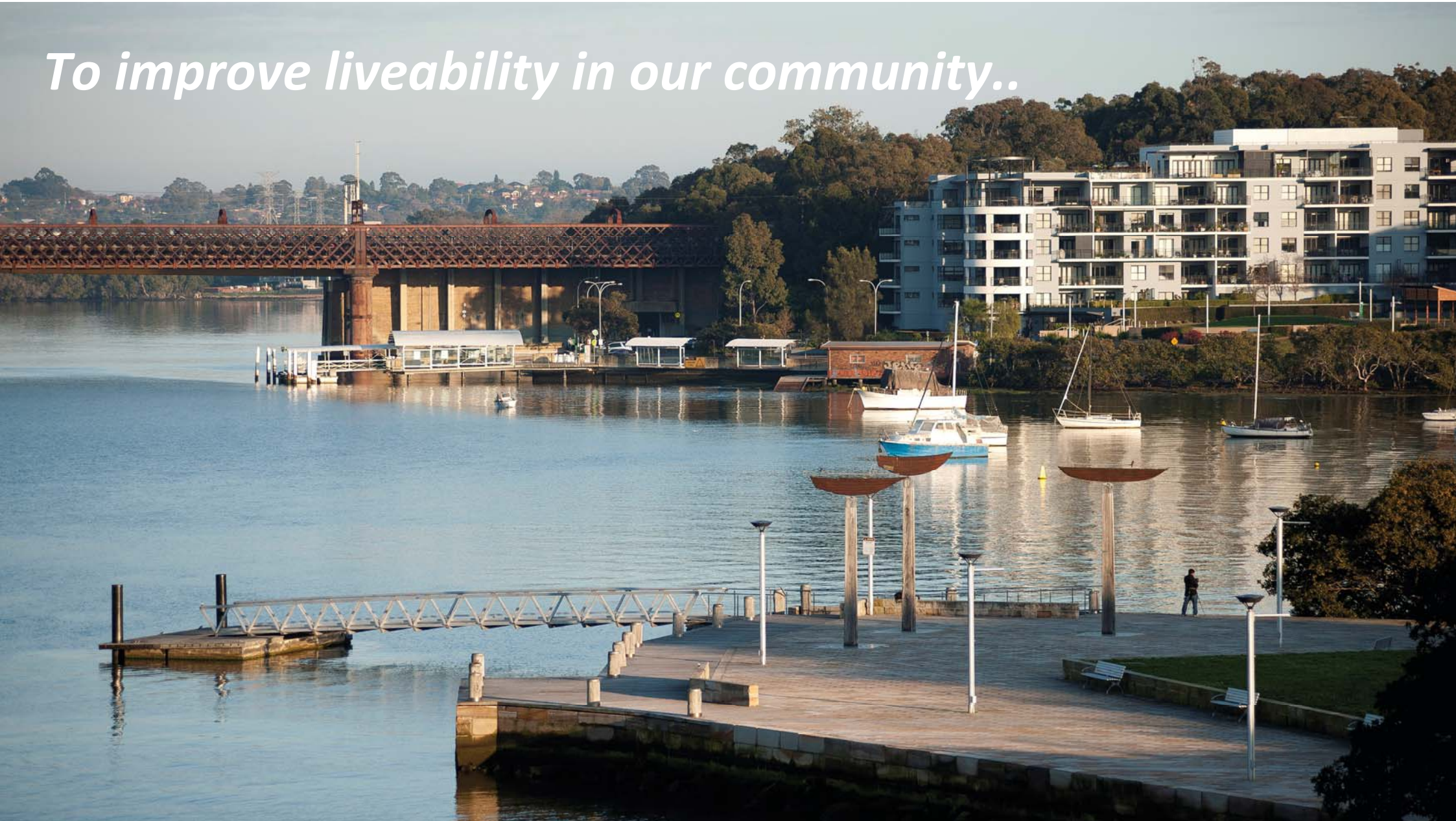
Figure 22: Platform Park Indicative Section (Source: AECOM, 2018)



Figure 13: Linear Park Concept Plan (Source: North Sydney Council and AECOM, 2018)



*To improve liveability in our community..*







*Continue planning for open space and tree canopy*





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***Its going to take great collaboration***



*By young and old in public and private spaces*







## *Office of Open Space and Parklands*

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