4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.1 Generally
As a basis for the identification of criteria for acquisition as outlined in Section 5.4, an analysis of key principles for open space provision has been undertaken. These have been listed under a range of broad considerations for open space management:

1. Open space provision / distribution
2. Recreation provision
3. Natural systems
4. Cultural heritage
5. Visual / landscape quality
6. Access
7. Connectivity
8. Carrying capacity
9. Economic viability / efficiency
10. Management and maintenance

The provision principles have informed the resolution of the acquisition criteria which provides a checklist for evaluating priorities and targets for open space acquisition and for evaluating specific acquisition opportunities (see Section 5.4).
### 4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

#### 4.2 Provision Principles

#### 4.2.1 Open Space Provision / Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquisition objectives</th>
<th>Source document</th>
<th>Provision principles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A balanced open space system - with a sufficient quantity of all types of open space | Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | • Provide sufficient quantities of open space - at all levels of the hierarchy – to meet recreation, biodiversity and landscape amenity needs.  
• Ensure that recreation open space acquired through subdivision/ development processes is suitable for recreation purposes. |
| Current study | • In providing new open spaces and/or embellishing existing open spaces, avoid the exacerbation of existing inequities in the distribution of open space  
• Provision of new open space to incorporate dedicated open space or linkages within development sites - especially in areas where acquisition options are not available and/or feasible.  
• Consider embellishment of existing open space (making existing open spaces 'work harder') as an option for of improved provision  
• Ensure that the quality of acquired open space is consistent with identified open space and recreation needs  
• Consider ongoing monitoring of open space usage to refine knowledge of open space needs  
• Assess open space priorities on an ongoing basis in conjunction with implementation of the RDS |
| An equitable distributed open space system | Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | • Provide enough open space of sufficient quality to meet the recreation needs of the existing and forecast populations  
• Ensure compatibility between open space uses and the uses of neighbouring land |
| Current study | • Consider the quality, quantity and location of open spaces as the key measures of adequacy  
• Consider the distribution of different recreation opportunities as an important component of a well distributed open space system  
• Consider changing trends in open space use and recreation participation (younger population moving into new developments?).  
• Consider the roles of district and regional open space (particularly for residents without ‘walk to’ opportunities).  
• Consider existing deficiencies in the open space system when identifying opportunities to acquire new open space. |
| Current study | • Consider options for acquired open space to provide recreation opportunities not currently provided for in the local area  
• Consider the demographic characteristics of new populations in catering for recreation needs (changing needs) |
### 4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

#### 4.2 Provision Principles

##### 4.2.2 Recreation Provision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquisition objectives</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A diversity of recreation opportunities relevant to identified and forecast sport / recreation needs | Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | - Develop new sports facilities (for formal and informal sporting activities and for use by the wider community) in line with expected population growth and in accordance with demonstrated needs  
- Co-locate play and other facilities (picnic, dog) with sports grounds |
| Open spaces suitable for their intended recreation purpose | Sport in Ku-ring-gai Strategy, 2006 | - Examine opportunities for the development of new sites  
- Investigate opportunities to develop training areas off the main field of play where possible (to alleviate use pressure on fields). |
| Current Study | | - Ensure adequate provision of informal active recreation spaces such as open grassed (kick-about) areas. |
| Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | | - Ensure that all children have reasonable access to play facilities in open space areas  
- Provide a diversity of age-appropriate play environments for children (and their carers) and youth (not just a focus on small children).  
- Ensure play areas are large enough to incorporate play equipment and ‘free play’ space |
| Current Study | | - Cater for a diversity of play experiences (and creative use of non-traditional playground equipment)  
- Consider potential for incorporation of nature-based play opportunities. |
| Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | | - Provide a range of facilities and amenities (toilets, shelters, play areas, picnic facilities, shelters) in accordance with management plans and site master plans  
- Provide places of natural and landscaped beauty for quiet activities, solitude and other passive recreation activities  
- Provide a diversity of informal recreation activities for all age groups  
- Provide safe and visible youth ‘hang’ spaces |
| Minimal negative impacts on surrounding land uses | Current Study | - Ensure facilities provision is appropriate to the size and character of open space areas.  
- Provide informal grassed areas that allow for informal recreation (kick-about) areas |
4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.3 Natural Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquisition objectives</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Protection and / or enhancement of bushland and environmental values | Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | • Conserve and enhance the natural habitat – through extending existing areas and/or establishing new areas of indigenous vegetation  
• Consider the potential for acquired open spaces to provide biodiversity linkages to and between National Parks and other bushland areas |
| Current study | | • Consider the embellishment of new parks to incorporate ‘bushland’ planting themes |
| Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | | • Increase access to environmentally significant areas while ensuring that access does not cause significant detrimental impacts to the environmental values of those areas |
| Current study | | • Consider the potential for acquired open spaces to provide linkages / connections between open spaces and natural areas to enhance connectivity.  
• Consider the role of natural areas as unique recreation resources.  
• Facilitate the use of natural areas as open space where sustainable. |
4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.4 Cultural Heritage

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<tr>
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</table>
| Protection and/or enhancement of historic and cultural values | Current Study | • Consider role of historic/formal parks and gardens as important component of the open space system.  
• Recognise the limitations of historic parks to provide a diversity of recreation opportunities.  
• Any new parks adjoining historic/cultural heritage areas to respond to character of surrounding area in embellishment works. |
4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.5 Visual / Landscape Quality

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<tr>
<th>Acquisition objectives</th>
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</table>
| Protection / enhancement of visual / scenic values | Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | • Enhance the urban landscape by providing a continuum of natural areas and parklands throughout the LGA  
• Provide (safe, well designed, well lit, shaded, linear, accessible) local environments supportive of physical activity |
| Current study          |                               | • Park embellishments to consider and reflect visual themes of surrounding areas.  
• Recognise the role of streetscapes as linkages / connections to open space. |
| Current study          |                               | • Park environments to provide unique visual / landscape qualities and character. |
4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.6 Access

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<tr>
<th>Acquisition objectives</th>
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</table>
| Optimal (physical and visual) access to parks and open space | Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005 | • Plan and manage Ku-ring-gai’s open space as an integrated system with individual land parcels linked through landscape features, habitat corridors, water courses, pedestrian / cycle paths and ‘park streets’.
• Provide pedestrian and cycle paths in appropriate linear reserves and on access routes to parks/open space. |

| Current study | | • Provide high levels of pedestrian amenity to well utilised open space access routes (tree planting etc.) |
4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.7 Connectivity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquisition objectives</th>
<th>Source document</th>
<th>Provision principles</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extensive and comprehensive open space system connectivity</td>
<td>Current study</td>
<td>• Establish connections and linkages between parks, natural areas and national park to provide a diversity of recreational experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>• Provide connections and linear linkages between parks to enhance usable park areas.</td>
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<td>• Provide additional / acquired open space to enlarge existing open space areas where appropriate.</td>
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4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.8 Carrying Capacity

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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Improved capacity of the parks and open space system to accommodate recreation, sport, and social activities | Current study | • Provide park embellishment to existing open space to increase carrying capacity / enhance usability.  
• Acquire new park / open space area adjoining existing open space to enlarge park area.  
• Acquire new open space areas adjoining sports fields / facilities to enhance use, and alleviate usage pressure on these facilities. |
4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.9 Economic Viability / Efficiency

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</table>
| Maximum return on acquisition / site development investments | Current study | • Consider acquisition of open space adjoining existing parks and sports facilities.  
• Consider recreation benefits of acquisition of several smaller areas versus one large area.  
• Provide for the needs of the new population while attempting to mitigate further deficiency in the existing open space system.  
• Consider embellishment of existing open space as a key method in providing for the open space needs of new populations. |
4.0 ACQUISITION PRINCIPLES

4.2 Provision Principles

4.2.10 Management and Maintenance

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<tr>
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| Optimal maintenance efficiencies | Current study | • Consider the maintenance requirements of proposed new park acquisitions  
• Provide new open space adjoining existing open space as appropriate to maximise maintenance efficiencies (ie by reducing travel/set up times).  
• Consider the long term maintenance requirements of proposed park embellishments |

| Acceptable risk profile | Current study | • Consider the risks associated with open space acquisition and embellishment including soil contamination, traffic hazards etc. |