

## 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).

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### 4.2 Provision Principles

#### 4.2.1 Open Space Provision / Distribution

Acquisition objectives	Source document	Provision principles
A balanced open space system - with a sufficient quantity of all types of open space	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide sufficient quantities of open space - at all levels of the hierarchy – to meet recreation, biodiversity and landscape amenity needs.</li> <li>• Ensure that recreation open space acquired through subdivision/ development processes is suitable for recreation purposes.</li> </ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In providing new open spaces and/or embellishing existing open spaces, avoid the exacerbation of existing inequities in the distribution of open space</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Consider embellishment of existing open space (making existing open spaces ‘work harder’) as an option for improved provision</li> <li>• Ensure that the quality of acquired open space is consistent with identified open space and recreation needs</li> <li>• Consider ongoing monitoring of open space usage to refine knowledge of open space needs</li> <li>• Assess open space priorities on an ongoing basis in conjunction with implementation of the RDS</li> </ul>
An equitable distributed open space system	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide enough open space of sufficient quality to meet the recreation needs of the existing and forecast populations</li> <li>• Ensure compatibility between open space uses and the uses of neighbouring land</li> </ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the quality, quantity and location of open spaces as the key measures of adequacy</li> <li>• Consider the distribution of different recreation opportunities as an important component of a well distributed open space system</li> <li>• Consider changing trends in open space use and recreation participation (younger population moving into new developments?).</li> <li>• Consider the roles of district and regional open space (particularly for residents without ‘walk to’ opportunities).</li> <li>• Consider existing deficiencies in the open space system when identifying opportunities to acquire new open space.</li> </ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider options for acquired open space to provide recreation opportunities not currently provided for in the local area</li> <li>• Consider the demographic characteristics of new populations in catering for recreation needs (changing needs)</li> </ul>

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#### 4.2.2 Recreation Provision

Acquisition objectives	Source document	Provision principles
A diversity of recreation opportunities relevant to identified and forecast sport / recreation needs	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Co-locate play and other facilities (picnic, dog) with sports grounds</li> </ul>
Open spaces suitable for their intended recreation purpose	Sport in Ku-ring-gai Strategy, 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine opportunities for the development of new sites</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities to develop training areas off the main field of play where possible (to alleviate use pressure on fields).</li> </ul>
	Current Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure adequate provision of informal active recreation spaces such as open grassed (kick-about) areas.</li> </ul>
	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all children have reasonable access to play facilities in open space areas</li> <li>• Provide a diversity of age-appropriate play environments for children (and their carers) and youth (not just a focus on small children).</li> <li>• Ensure play areas are large enough to incorporate play equipment and 'free play' space</li> </ul>
	Current Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cater for a diversity of play experiences (and creative use of non-traditional playground equipment)</li> <li>• Consider potential for incorporation of nature-based play opportunities.</li> </ul>
	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of facilities and amenities (toilets, shelters, play areas, picnic facilities, shelters) in accordance with management plans and site master plans</li> <li>• Provide places of natural and landscaped beauty for quiet activities, solitude and other passive recreation activities</li> <li>• Provide a diversity of informal recreation activities for all age groups</li> <li>• Provide safe and visible youth 'hang' spaces</li> </ul>
Minimal negative impacts on surrounding land uses	Current Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure facilities provision is appropriate to the size and character of open space areas.</li> <li>• Provide informal grassed areas that allow for informal recreation (kick-about) areas</li> </ul>

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#### 4.2.3 Natural Systems

Acquisition objectives	Source document	Provision principles
Protection and / or enhancement of bushland and environmental values	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the natural habitat – through extending existing areas and/or establishing new areas of indigenous vegetation</li> <li>• Consider the potential for acquired open spaces to provide biodiversity linkages to and between National Parks and other bushland areas</li> </ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the embellishment of new parks to incorporate 'bushland' planting themes</li> </ul>
	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase access to environmentally significant areas while ensuring that access does not cause significant detrimental impacts to the environmental values of those areas</li> </ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the potential for acquired open spaces to provide linkages / connections between open spaces and natural areas to enhance connectivity.</li> <li>• Consider the role of natural areas as unique recreation resources.</li> <li>• Facilitate the use of natural areas as open space where sustainable.</li> </ul>

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#### 4.2.4 Cultural Heritage

<b>Acquisition objectives</b>	<b>Source document</b>	<b>Provision principles</b>
Protection and / or enhancement of historic and cultural values	Current Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider role of historic / formal parks and gardens as important component of the open space system.</li> <li>• Consider the role of historic / formal parks and gardens as important component of the open space system.</li> <li>• Recognise the limitations of historic parks to provide a diversity of recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• Any new parks adjoining historic / cultural heritage areas to respond to character of surrounding area in embellishment works.</li> </ul>

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#### 4.2.5 Visual / Landscape Quality

<b>Acquisition objectives</b>	<b>Source document</b>	<b>Provision principles</b>
Protection / enhancement of visual / scenic values	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance the urban landscape by providing a continuum of</li><li>• Enhance the urban landscape by providing a continuum of natural areas and parklands throughout the LGA</li><li>• Provide (safe, well designed, well lit, shaded, linear, accessible) local environments supportive of physical activity</li></ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Park embellishments to consider and reflect visual themes of surrounding areas.</li><li>• Recognise the role of streetscapes as linkages / connections to open space.</li></ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Park environments to provide unique visual / landscape qualities and character.</li></ul>

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#### 4.2.6 Access

<b>Acquisition objectives</b>	<b>Source document</b>	<b>Provision principles</b>
Optimal (physical and visual) access to parks and open space	Open Space Strategy For Ku-ring-gai, 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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'.</li> <li>• Provide pedestrian and cycle paths in appropriate linear reserves and on access routes to parks/open space.</li> </ul>
	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide high levels of pedestrian amenity to well utilised open space access routes (tree planting etc.)</li> </ul>

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#### 4.2.7 Connectivity

<b>Acquisition objectives</b>	<b>Source document</b>	<b>Provision principles</b>
E x t e n s i v e   a n d comprehensive open space system connectivity	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish connections and linkages between parks, natural areas and national park to provide a diversity of recreational experiences.</li><li>• Provide connections and linear linkages between parks to enhance usable park areas.</li><li>• Provide additional / acquired open space to enlarge existing open space areas where appropriate.</li></ul>



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#### 4.2.8 Carrying Capacity

<b>Acquisition objectives</b>	<b>Source document</b>	<b>Provision principles</b>
Improved capacity of the parks and open space system to accommodate recreation, sport, and social activities	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide park embellishment to existing open space to increase carrying capacity / enhance usability.</li> <li>• Acquire new park / open space area adjoining existing open space to enlarge park area.</li> <li>• Acquire new open space areas adjoining sports fields / facilities to enhance use, and alleviate usage pressure on these facilities.</li> </ul>

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#### 4.2.9 Economic Viability / Efficiency

<b>Acquisition objectives</b>	<b>Source document</b>	<b>Provision principles</b>
Maximum return on acquisition / site development investments	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider acquisition of open space adjoining existing parks and sports facilities.</li><li>• Consider recreation benefits of acquisition of several smaller areas versus one large area.</li><li>• Provide for the needs of the new population while attempting to mitigate further deficiency in the existing open space system.</li><li>• Consider embellishment of existing open space as a key method in providing for the open space needs of new populations.</li></ul>

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#### 4.2.10 Management and Maintenance

Acquisition objectives	Source document	Provision principles
Optimal maintenance efficiencies	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the maintenance requirements of proposed new park acquisitions</li> <li>• Provide new open space adjoining existing open space as appropriate to maximise maintenance efficiencies (ie by reducing travel/set up times).</li> <li>• Consider the long term maintenance requirements of proposed park embellishments</li> </ul>
Acceptable risk profile	Current study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the risks associated with open space acquisition and embellishment including soil contamination, traffic hazards etc.</li> </ul>