North Sydney Council

Report for Water Based Recreation Needs Study

Report

May 2006
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1. **Introduction**

1.1 **Study Background and Purpose**

In 2005 North Sydney Council finalised a Recreation Needs Study that examined sport, recreation and open space supply in the Local Government Area (LGA), the community’s existing and emerging needs and recommended a sport and recreation strategy for the coming 10 years.

One of the key recommendations of the Recreation Needs Study was to undertake a specific study to identify needs and opportunities for enhancing water based recreation activities in the North Sydney area.

GHD was engaged to undertake this water based recreation study. The study methodology involves:

- An assessment of existing water based recreation facility provision.
- An assessment of demand for such facilities and associated recreation opportunities through a review of demographic information and a community consultation phase.
- Consultation with adjoining Councils and relevant State Government agencies to determine current provision and demand for water based recreation facilities with their areas of responsibility.
- An assessment of supply and demand resulting in strategies targeting water based recreation facility development, improvement and more efficient utilisation by user groups in order to provide a direction over the coming 10 years for the enhancement of water based recreation facilities.

Rather than replicate much of the information in the earlier Recreation Needs Study, this report aims to augment that information or present aspects as they relate to water based recreation in North Sydney.

1.2 **The Study Area**

The location and extent of foreshore reserves within North Sydney LGA is illustrated in Figure 1 overleaf.

Sport and recreation play an important role to both residents and visitors of the North Sydney LGA.

North Sydney is unique inner city community, characterised by some “iconic” sport and recreation facilities, such as the North Sydney Olympic Pool and St Leonards Park (containing North Sydney Oval No.1), together with distinctive bushland reserves and foreshore parks, fronting Sydney and Middle Harbours. The LGA covers a total area of approximately 10.5km$^2$ and has a current population of almost 57,000 people (ABS, 2001).
Insert map on this page
It includes the suburbs of Cammeray, Cremorne, Crows Nest, Kirribilli, Lavender Bay, McMahon’s Point, Milsons Point, Neutral Bay, North Sydney, St Leonards (part), Waverton and Wollstonecraft.

The municipality is regularly visited by large numbers of people. It is estimated that the population more than doubles on weekdays; with over 52,000 people travelling to North Sydney for work and education.

There are a range of visitor sites within the LGA that provide access for water based recreation including large urban parks such as Tunks and Waverton Parks, reserves located on points and foreshores and small sites often found at the termination of streets where wharves or foreshore access points are provided.

1.3 Definitions
For the purpose of this report, the following definition of recreation will be used:

‘Recreation’ activities are those:
- people undertake for enjoyment in their own free time;
- not based on formal competition and / or organised administration; and
- that lack formal sets of rules.

Water based recreation includes recreation opportunities that relate to Sydney and Middle Harbours and associated bays and includes swimming, boating, fishing, using non motorised watercraft such as kayaks, canoes and kite surfing. It does not incorporate aquatic facilities as these were addressed in the earlier study.

1.4 Timeframe
This study is intended to guide the implementation of water based recreation initiatives in North Sydney, based on a 5-10 year plan.

It is recognised that some of the recommendations may not be implemented over this period. Accordingly, the study is intended to provide strategic direction, which may be added to and reviewed over time. In this way, it is a ‘living’ document, which evolves and responds to new opportunities for recreation as they arise.

1.5 Report Structure
This report is presented in a number of Sections, as follows:
- Section 1 introduces the water based recreation needs study, outlining its aim, objectives and scope.
- Section 2 sets the water based recreation needs study in context, examining previous research and relevant planning and management frameworks.
- Section 3 provides the regional context for water based recreation. It examines the provision of recreation opportunities in adjoining LGAs and discusses the implications of the regional context.
- **Section 4** provides a description and analysis of the existing provision for water based recreation in North Sydney LGA and discusses the implications of the existing situation. The facilities inventory is included in Appendix A.

- **Section 5** provides a snapshot of the municipality’s population characteristics and projected growth, to identify potential demand and implications for water based recreation planning.

- **Section 6** contains the results and analysis of stakeholder feedback, highlighting the diverse needs and demands for different water based recreation facilities and opportunities.

- **Section 7** is a synthesis of study findings. It considers North Sydney’s water based recreation needs relative to the actual resource supply, to develop recommendations in the form of a prioritised Action Plan and a number of site specific recommendations. This will provide strategic direction on the management, provision and funding water based recreation initiatives throughout the LGA for the next 10 years.
2. Literature Review

GHD has reviewed adjoining Council and relevant State Government agencies foreshore policies to determine the regional context of North Sydney’s LGA water-based recreational needs. The documents reviewed include the following:

- *Assessing Recreation Demand and Opportunities: North Sydney Region* (DIPNR, 2004);
- *Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan* (DIPNR, 2003); and
- Lane Cove Council website, *Living in the Area* (LCC, 2005);
- *North Sydney Council, Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan of Management* (2003, NSC);
- NSW Maritime Authority website, *Recreational Boating* (NSW Maritime Authority, 2005);
- National Parks and Wildlife Services website, *Sydney Harbour National Park* (NPWS, 2005); and
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority website, *Open Spaces* (SHFA, 2005).

Key findings of these documents relevant to this study are outlined below.

**Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005**

- This plan has a number of aims including to ensure that the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained as an outstanding natural asset and as a public asset of national and heritage significance for existing and future generations. The Plan adopts the principle that:
  - (a) Sydney Harbour is a public resource, owned by the public, to be protected for the public good,
  - (b) the public good has precedence over the private good whenever and whatever change is proposed for Sydney Harbour or its foreshores, and
  - (c) protection of the natural assets of Sydney Harbour has precedence over all other interests.

- Clause 14 of the Plan proposes a range of planning principles for land within the “Foreshores and Waterways Area” of the Harbour. The most relevant of these principles are:
  - public access to and along the foreshore should be increased, maintained and improved, while minimising its impact on watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands and remnant vegetation,
  - access to and from the waterways should be increased, maintained and improved for public recreational purposes (such as swimming, fishing and
boating), while minimising its impact on watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands and remnant vegetation,

- the provision and use of public boating facilities along the waterfront should be encouraged.

- Division 2 of the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005 lists a range of matters to be taken into consideration by consent authorities before granting consent to development. These matters include public access to and use of foreshores and waterways, and boats storage facilities. The most relevant provisions of these Clauses are provided below.

- Clause 22, Public Access to and Use of Foreshores and Waterways provides that the following matters be considered in providing consent:

  (a) development should maintain and improve public access to and along the foreshore, without adversely impacting on watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands or remnant vegetation,

  (b) development should maintain and improve public access to and from the waterways for recreational purposes (such as swimming, fishing and boating), without adversely impacting on watercourses, wetlands, riparian lands or remnant vegetation,

  (c) if foreshore land made available for public access is not in public ownership, development should provide appropriate tenure and management mechanisms to safeguard public access to, and public use of, that land,

  (d) the undesirability of boardwalks as a means of access across or along land below the mean high water mark if adequate alternative public access can otherwise be provided,

  (e) the need to minimise disturbance of contaminated sediments.

- Clause 27, Boat Storage Facilities provides that

  (a) development should increase the number of public boat storage facilities and encourage the use of such facilities,

  (b) development should avoid the proliferation of boat sheds and other related buildings and structures below the mean high water mark,

  (c) development should provide for the shared use of private boat storage facilities,

  (d) development should avoid the proliferation of private boat storage facilities in and over the waterways by ensuring that all such facilities satisfy a demonstrated demand,

  (e) boat storage facilities should be as visually unobtrusive as possible,

  (f) in the case of permanent boat storage, the safety and utility of the development should not be adversely affected by the wave environment, and the
development should avoid adverse impacts on safe navigation and single moorings.

Assessing Recreation Demand and Opportunities: North Sydney Region 2004. (DIPNR)

- Waterways and beaches are popular recreation areas in Northern Sydney, and include the important area of Sydney and Middle Harbours. These areas are widely used for a range of recreational purposes.
- A high demand for improved access to Sydney Harbour and its tributaries and foreshore has been observed by the Boating Industry Association and NSW Boat Owners Association.
- Boat owners must wait years for moorings to become available in more accessible locations of Sydney Harbour; no new moorings are being allocated. There are also areas with long waiting times for boat launching during peak periods.
- There is a growing demand for better access and facilities for canoes and kayak tours, rowing and other non-motorised crafts.
- The Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan (DIPNR, 2003) identified projects that will increase access and use of the harbour and its tributaries. Minor improvements to existing boating facilities are recommended in many locations.
- There needs to be better coordination between government agencies and private landholders in managing waterways and boating.

Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan 2003. (DIPNR)

- $2 million of State Government funding is available between 2003 - 2008 capital works projects. Grants funding is being provided by:
  - Waterways Authority through the Waterways Asset Development and Management Program;
  - Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority; and
  - DIPNR through the Sydney Region Development Fund.
- Projects suitable for funding will be in accordance with the principles and objectives in the Access Plan. Eligible applicants are generally expected to be local government authorities and incorporated or registered recreational organisations.
- Construction of new public boat ramps will be funded 100% by Waterways Authority.
- A steering committee will review the program for determining the strategic priorities for each year. The program will undergo a formal evaluation after 3 years of operation to assess its effectiveness and ensure relevant new information is taken into account.
The Access Plan is to help address demand for improved public foreshore and waterway access. It adopts an integrated approach to looking at land and water access through an agency partnership approach.

The Access Plan addresses water-based access of:
- Wharves, jetties and pontoons;
- Boat ramps; and
- Soft access (facilities such as pontoons, seawall steps and beaches).

The Access Plan’s vision is to improve public access, and enhance recreational enjoyment of Sydney Harbour and tributaries.

The harbour provides a variety of complementary land and water-based recreational activities. A multi-objective approach is desirable to providing a range of recreational activities.

There is increased support for soft forms of recreation and access to both land and water.

Non-motorised forms of land and water recreation do not require expensive equipment and are available to the majority of people.

New facilities and improvements highlighted in the North Sydney LGA include:
- Coal loader public domain improvements at Balls Head;
- Berry’s Bay new wharf/pontoon;
- Lavender Bay new wharf/pontoon;
- Berry’s Bay soft access improvement; and
- Tunks Park boat ramp improvement.

Lane Cove Council website, Living in the Area 2005

Lane Cove Council maintains and manages:
- Boat ramps at Manns Point, Greenwich, Burns Bay and Riverview;
- Boat lockers at Yacht Bay and Woodford Bay; and
- Greenwich Baths.

North Sydney Council, Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan of Management 2003. (North Sydney Council)

North Sydney has an extensive foreshore area with a large proportion of parks and reserves. These foreshore areas provide open space of sportgrounds, urban bushland and areas for passive recreation.

Foreshore parks and reserves are important for the local community, and provide significant tourist destinations for views of Sydney and the harbour.

North Sydney foreshore parks and reserves create a green belt and contribute to the beauty of Sydney Harbour.

Council has an ongoing commitment to enhance North Sydney’s existing foreshore parks and reserves.
Public access is available to all foreshore areas classified as community land or under Council’s care, control and management. However, not all areas are physically accessible, such as some bushland areas.

Limited car parking facilities restrict the perceived use and appreciation of some foreshore areas. The most popular way of accessing foreshore parks is by foot or car. Lack of car parking facilities has been identified as a major concern for popular foreshore areas. Council is encouraging the use of public transport to discourage the reliance on cars, and is pursuing the opportunity to install new cycleways.

Direct access to the water is limited. Access includes:
- Public ferry wharves;
- Boat ramps at Tunks Park and Quibaree Reserve;
- Council-owned wharf at Sawmillers Reserve;
- Beaches at Blues Point, Quibaree Reserve, Hayes Street and Berry Island Reserve;
- Public stairs at Horace Street, Shellcove Road, Lady Gowrie Lookout and Spains Wharf Road, Tunks Park and Waverton Park; and
- Informal storage areas for dinghies at Folly Point, Cremorne Reserve, Berry Island and Gore Cove.

Access is difficult in some foreshore parks and reserves due to the topography and extension of private gardens. This has resulted in reduced foreshore open space available to the public. New development in foreshore parks and reserves will take into account the need to cater for mobility-impaired users.

Council’s Foreshore Open Space Study (1991) highlighted the importance of creating links between exiting foreshore open space, and that foreshore areas serve a wider purpose once linked with other areas. The 1991 study encourages the mix of foreshore links and street links incorporating boardwalks and improved pedestrian environments.

Foreshore areas attract the community and serve the function of a look out area for people to view the harbour.

The foreshore is often used for dinghy and small boat storage. Problems with this have been identified at Folly Pont where passive users were no longer able to easily access the water’s edge.

Council’s Recreational Needs Study (1997 – and the subsequent 2004 study) identified that a number of facilities need to be provided. These included seats, tables, barbeques, bubbler, toilets and pathways.

Masterplans for Cremorne Reserve and Bradfield Park were completed in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

Other reserves identified as requiring Masterplans to facilitate upgrading and redevelopment are Blues Point Reserve, Kesterton Park, Kurraba Reserve and Tunks Park.
Foreshore parks and reserves in North Sydney occur on both Council-owned land and Crown reserves.

Management objectives include:

- Manage the land for public recreation in accordance with the overall objectives of the North Sydney Council Management Plan 2004-2006;
- Provide and maintain high quality recreation facility that meets the needs of the local users and wider community, including visitors to North Sydney, based on identified needs and within budget;
- Ensure all foreshore parks and reserves are accessible to the general community;
- Cater for users with mobility-impairments where practical within physical constraints of the individual foreshore parks and reserves;
- Provide access to the water;
- Provide appropriate facilities for users of the foreshore areas;
- Provide for public safety;
- Minimise conflict between users of the foreshore parks and reserves; and
- Upgrade the existing recreational environment and the aesthetics of individual foreshore parks and reserves as required.

Actions identified include the preparation of landscape design and masterplans for:

- Kurraba Reserve;
- Kesterton Park; and
- Tunks Park

Small boat storage is identified as an issue that needs to be addressed, to control environmental degradation occurring to boat storage sites and related access paths. Actions to address this include provision of storage and repairs to tracks and storage areas where required. Storage needs to be more organised in areas where conflict occurs.

Provision of bicycle racks in selected foreshore areas has been identified as an action.

Investigations into opportunities to make areas more accessible to the water. This includes the consideration of public jetties and steps. Identified opportunities to be pursued in accordance with levels of need.

**NSW Maritime Authority website, Recreational Boating 2005**

A mooring licence priority list has been established, where no vacant private moorings sites are available. The number of applicants awaiting a mooring out number moorings available in all areas in North Sydney.

The number of applications and number of private moorings in the North Sydney and surrounding areas, as at September 2005) are summarised in Table 1.
Table 1 Applications and private moorings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Adjoining LGA</th>
<th>Applications – Waiting List</th>
<th>Number of Private Moorings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willoughby Bay</td>
<td>North Sydney and Willoughby</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt Pan Creek</td>
<td>Willoughby</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Bay</td>
<td>North Sydney and Willoughby</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northbridge</td>
<td>Willoughby</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty Point</td>
<td>Mosman</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balmoral</td>
<td>Mosman</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylors Bay</td>
<td>Mosman</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosman Bay</td>
<td>Mosman and North Sydney</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell Cove</td>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral Bay</td>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Careening Cove</td>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>No applications accepted</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirribilli</td>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavender Bay</td>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry’s Bay</td>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>74</td>
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<td>Wollstonecraft Bay</td>
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<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gore Cove Bay</td>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodford Bay</td>
<td>Lane Cove</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Parks and Wildlife Services website, Sydney Harbour National Park 2005

* The shoreline provides opportunities for rock fishing.

* Swimming is available in adjoining LGAs at:
  - Nielsen Park;
  - Washaway Beach, Reef Beach and other places along the shore north of Dobroyd Head;
  - Obelisk Beach and Cobbler’s Beach around Middle Head; and
  - Chowder Bay, north of Bradley’s Head.
Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority website, Open Spaces 2005

- A majority of Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority assets are located on Sydney’s shoreline close to the CBD.
- These assets are valuable as national treasure and for a working harbour.
- Creating and maintaining public parks and open space is a challenge.
3. Regional Context

In addition to seeking comment from affected users, the land management agencies listed below were contacted to assess the number, type and use levels of facilities provided within the areas managed by their organisation:

- Mosman Council.
- Willoughby Council.
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.
- Maritime Services.
- DIPNR.

Consultation with these agencies was aimed at establishing a regional context for the provision of facilities that encourage water-based recreation. In a planning context, an awareness of similar nearby facilities is important to ensure unnecessary duplication of facilities. Information relating to use levels and the types of facilities provided by other agencies also informs the recommendations made by this report.

To encourage input, a table was provided and relevant staff requested to provide relevant information. Mosman Council was the only organisation to provide a detailed response. In the absence of a response from the remaining organisations a search of their websites for relevant information was conducted.

In undertaking the agency consultation a number of relevant publications were highlighted and these have been reviewed for relevance to this study, the results of which are presented in Section 2.

An analysis of existing planning documents revealed the following key features in terms of the demand and supply of water based recreation facilities in the North Sydney and surrounding LGAs.

- NSW Maritime data indicates that all of the bays within North Sydney LGA have a waiting list for access to private moorings, indicating that there is likely to be an ongoing need for dinghy launching and possibly storage facilities in the LGA.
- Demand for dinghy storage facilities such as racks exceeds supply.
- There is a shortage of car parking adjacent to dinghy and/or boat launching facilities and management of parking (free, user pays or limited hours) is an ongoing issue.
- There is a high demand for improved access to Sydney Harbour and its foreshores and a growing demand for better access and facilities for canoes and kayaks and other non-motorised watercraft.
- There is increased State government support for soft forms of recreation and access to the harbour. Soft access is defined as providing access to the water via boat ramps, seawall steps, floating pontoons and beaches.
There are a number of opportunities for harbour swimming in the Sydney Harbour National Park and also at Balmoral and Clifton Beaches in Mosman LGA.

Harbour pools and/or swimming beaches are also available at Cremorne, Balmoral and Greenwich.

The Sharing Sydney Harbour Access plan provides a number of maps of various types of harbour accesses. The key points from these maps are:
  o There are no soft access points in adjoining LGAs.
  o There are a small number of publicly accessible wharves (for recreation purposes such as fishing) in North Sydney and adjoining LGAs - Beulah Street and Tunks Park (North Sydney), Quakers Hat Bay, Balmoral and Chowder Bay (Mosman).
  o There are no publicly accessible wharves (for recreation purposes) between Milsons Point and Homebush Bay.
  o There is only one boat ramp (Burns Bay, Lane Cove) in the adjoining LGAs.

3.1 Implications

A summary of the implications of the regional context for the provision of water based recreation facilities in North Sydney LGA are provided below.

  o There is a high and likely to be ongoing demand for private moorings in all the bays adjoining North Sydney and neighbouring LGAs. Consequently there will be a continuing high demand for both boat ramps from which dinghys can be launched and dinghy storage facilities on the foreshores close to the private moorings.

  o The lack of vehicle accessible boat ramps (only two in North Sydney and one in Lane Cove LGA) is likely to result in the current practice of storing dinghies on the foreshore continuing for the foreseeable future. There is a boat ramp at Berry Island Reserve but it is not accessible by vehicles at present.

  o The existing practice of informally storing dinghies on some foreshore areas (such as Folly Point, Cremorne Reserve and Blues Point Reserve) is likely to continue unless convenient alternatives are offered.

  o Council management of adjoining car parking areas and street parking needs to be cognisant of the ongoing weekend demand for parking near reserves that offer formal or informal water craft launching facilities.

  o There is a growing demand for facilities to launch non-motorised craft such as canoes, kayaks and kitesurfers and very few facilities exist in North Sydney and adjoining LGAs.

  o There are numerous opportunities in adjoining LGAs for safe harbour swimming or swimming in harbour-side rock pools.
There are few public wharves from which recreation activities are permitted, and none in the harbour between Milsons Point and Homebush Bay.
4. Existing Water Based Recreation Supply

The study team compiled an inventory of all sites in North Sydney LGA that provide an opportunity for water based recreation. The inventory focused on those places that;

1. Directly provide a water base recreation facility (such as rock pools) and/or
2. Provide facilities that allow access to a water based recreation setting or activity (such as boat ramps, dinghy storage areas or pedestrian tracks to the waters edge).

The inventory involved a visit to each existing site. For each site the following characteristics were recorded;

- Location
- Area
- Estimated recreation catchment:
  - Local – catering for the immediate area surrounding the site, generally used by local residents.
  - District – catering for the needs of a whole suburb or the wider LGA.
  - Regional – catering for the broader region beyond the North Sydney LGA boundaries.
- An estimate of the level of use the site is receiving (High, Medium, Low).
- Type and number of facilities that encourage water based recreation. The inventory does not include facilities that encourage recreation that is not water based (for example, sporting fields).

Appendix 1 provides the results of the inventory and a summary of the results is provided below.

4.1 Analysis of Recreation Supply

The category definitions provided below are for the purposes of this Study only. The categories have been primarily based on the current level of facilities and amenities in each park or reserve that facilitates water-based recreation. The level of use each site receives has also been considered.

Amenities facilitating water-based recreation include:

- Council-owned wharf
- Beach
- Rock platform
- Pedestrian path/s to foreshore
- Dinghy storage (formal or informal)
- Vehicle parking
- Trailer parking
- Harbour pool
- Boat ramp
- Adjacent commercial club (water-based activities)

The number of amenities at a site has been used to guide the categories as follows:

- **Local** 0-1 amenities
- **District** 2-3 amenities
- **Regional** 4+ amenities

In the following table, categorisation of each foreshore park or reserve for the purpose of this study is followed by the general council categorisation. The Council categorisation for all parks and reserves is as follows:

- **Local (L)** A park or other designated open space area that primarily attracts residents living within walking distance.
- **District (D)** A park or other designated open space area that primarily attracts residents living within the Municipality.
- **Regional (R)** A park or other designated open space area that attracts local and district visitors as well as a significant proportion of visitors from areas outside the Municipality including both interstate and overseas tourists.

For example: Bradfield Park is a Regional park, with a Local Level of Amenities facilitating water-based recreation.

### Table 2 Foreshore Park and Reserve Categorisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Regional</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anderson Park</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badangi Reserve</td>
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<td>R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Boyd Road Park</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>Beulah Street Reserve</td>
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<td>Boatbuilders Walk</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>Bradfield Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain Henry Waterhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colindia Reserve</td>
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<td>Copes Lookout</td>
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<td>Dowling Street Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Mary Booth Lookout</td>
<td>L</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Table 3 provides a summary of the existing situation at selected foreshore reserves within North Sydney LGA where management issues were observed and/or there is potential for the provision of additional facilities. The table includes a description of existing facilities, the number of adjacent moorings and demand for moorings (based on applications held by NSW Maritime Authority), comments from consultation feedback, an estimate of use level and a description of recommendations from existing planning documents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Regional</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gore Cove Reserve</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurraba Wharf Reserve</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Gowrie Lookout</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavender Bay Foreshore</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Bayview St Reserve</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milson Park</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral Bay Foreshore</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oyster Cove Reserve</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spains Wharf Lookout</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suger Works Reserve</td>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonga Road Reserve</td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP Parklands</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex Coal Loader/Caltex site</td>
<td>R</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Estimated Catchment for water and land based recreation</td>
<td>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunks Park, Cammeray</td>
<td>Regional District</td>
<td>Boat ramp and car/trailer park. Beach. Fish cleaning table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folly Point, Cammeray</td>
<td>District Local</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage. On street parking only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primrose Park, Cremorne</td>
<td>District District</td>
<td>Car park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Estimated Catchment for water and land based recreation</td>
<td>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cremorne Reserve, Cremorne Point (inc Robertsons Point)</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Harbour pool, informal dinghy storage, public wharf/jetty, on street parking and sailing club.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson Park, Neutral Bay</td>
<td>Local District</td>
<td>Commercial club on adjacent private land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milson Park, North Sydney</td>
<td>Local District</td>
<td>Boat ramp. On street parking and commercial club on adjacent private land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quibaree Park</td>
<td>Regional District</td>
<td>Dinghy storage shed, public wharf/jetty, boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Estimated Catchment for water and land based recreation</td>
<td>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMahon's Point</td>
<td></td>
<td>ramp, and commercial club on adjacent private land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blues Point Reserve, McMahon's Point</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage. On street parking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawmillers Reserve, McMahon's Point</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage, public wharf/jetty.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waverton Park, Waverton</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage. Soft water access from Waverton Oval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP Parklands, Waverton</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Water Based Recreation Needs Study Report**

21/13793/119843
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Estimated Catchment for water and land based recreation</th>
<th>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</th>
<th>Number of Moorings in adjacent water body</th>
<th>Mooring Applications (as at 09/05)</th>
<th>Consultation Outcomes</th>
<th>Use level</th>
<th>Recommendations in current planning documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balls Head Reserve, Balls Head Bay</td>
<td>District Regional</td>
<td>Vehicle parking.</td>
<td>74 (Berrys Bay)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>No specific comments received.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>No recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Coal Loader/Caltex Site, Balls Head Bay</td>
<td>Local Regional</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
<td>43 (Gore Cove Bay)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>No specific comments received.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Improvements including new public access ways, seating and landscaping and establishing linkages to Balls Head Reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry Island Reserve, Wollstonecraft</td>
<td>District Regional</td>
<td>Beach access ramp.</td>
<td>43 (Gore Cove Bay)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Access for launching small trailer carried boats – currently is a lack of access to a beach access ramp in</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>No recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Estimated Catchment for water and land based recreation</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</td>
<td>Number of Moorings in adjacent water body</td>
<td>Mooring Applications (as at 09/05)</td>
<td>Consultation Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>north east corner of park. Beach provides a suitable place for launching small craft able to be moved by hand.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Water Based Recreation Needs Study Report
Common Facilities

To encourage water based recreation a number of facilities are commonly provided by land management agencies, many of which have been mentioned in the preceding discussion. This section provides a brief analysis of the distribution of such facilities in the North Sydney LGA.

Boat ramps

There are two publicly available formal boat ramps within North Sydney LGA, located at Tunks Park and Quibaree Park.

Dinghy Storage Facilities

Formal dinghy storage facilities are located at Wrixton Park and Quibaree Park.

Informal Dinghy Storage

The informal storage of dinghies involves securing the craft to immovable objects on the foreshore such as trees or park facilities. This practice currently occurs at Folly Point, Cremorne Reserve, Blues Point Reserve, Sawmillers Reserve, Waverton Park, Sugarworks Reserve, Gore Cove Reserve and Berry Island Reserve.

Harbour Pools

A harbour pool is located at Cremorne Reserve.

Small craft water access

There are no dedicated facilities provided to encourage the launching of small non-motorised watercraft such as canoes, kayaks and windsurfers. Currently users utilise the formal boat ramps listed above or manhandle their craft along tracks to the waters edge.

Pedestrian Access

Pedestrian access along the foreshore and to the waters edge exists in the form of Council maintained formal paths and informal paths that result from pedestrian desire lines and ongoing use.

Many sites contain formal pedestrian paths that provide access along the foreshore and/or to the waters edge. A number of sites do not contain such tracks and these are generally bushland areas such as Wonga Road Reserve or are small reserves with a local catchment that provide access to a public wharf or similar.

Formal pedestrian access is available at Tunks Park and Waverton Park.

Informal tracks to the waters edge exist at Folly Point, Primrose Park, Cremorne Reserve, Balls Head Reserve, Berry Island Reserve.

4.2 Implications

A summary of the implications of the existing supply of facilities for water based recreation is provided below.
There are numerous foreshore parks and reserves in North Sydney LGA that provide opportunities for water based recreation.

The current provision of facilities, estimated recreation catchment and use levels provide a basis for establishing a hierarchy of foreshore parks and reserves. Such a hierarchy provides a sound basis for the planning and management of water based recreation facilities in North Sydney.

There are two publicly available boat ramps in North Sydney – one in Middle Harbour (Tunks Park which has associated trailer parking) and one in Sydney Harbour (Quibaree Park which does not have associated trailer parking).

There are two publicly available formalised dinghy storage facilities in the North Sydney LGA – Quibaree Park and Wrixton Park.

Informal dinghy storage is occurring at numerous sites (where no publicly available storage facilities are offered) indicating an existing demand for formal storage facilities. Sites where this is evident are Folly Point, Cremorne Reserve, Blues Point Reserve, Sawmillers Reserve, Waverton Park, Sugarworks Reserve and Gore Cove Reserve and berry Island Reserve.

There are no dedicated facilities for the launching of non-motorised small watercraft. Often conflicts arise at boat ramps between users of non-motorised craft (which are typically manoeuvred into the water by hand) and motorised craft (which are generally trailer borne). The establishment of dedicated facilities for non-motorised craft would overcome this conflict and also allow for the maximum use of boat ramps by other users.

There are both formal and informal pedestrian tracks that provide access to and along the foreshore. These tracks provide opportunities for users to gain access to the waters edge for fishing or “beachcombing” at the intertidal zone. The continued use of informal tracks can result in unacceptable environmental impacts if they are poorly sited or receive high levels of use.
5. Demographic Review

The current population of North Sydney LGA is approximately 59,000 persons. Between 1991 and 2001, population growth increased by 1.15%, slightly less than growth for the Sydney Statistical District (SSD) of 1.23%. According to recent Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources population projections, the population is expected to increase by 6,100 persons by 2016.

North Sydney has a notably higher non-resident working and student population, compared with other LGA’s. This non-resident population also generates a demand on local community infrastructure, particularly sport and recreation facilities.

5.1 Key Population Characteristics

The graph below illustrates the age profile of North Sydney LGA as at 2001 compared to the Sydney Statistical Division (SSD).

![Age Profiles - North Sydney & Sydney SSD (2001)]

North Sydney LGA has a high representation of young adults, with almost half the population (45.5%) aged between 20 and 39. This is significantly higher than the SSD (31.1%). There is also a notably lower proportion of infants and school aged youths, with 13.4% of the population aged less than 19 years old, compared to 27.1% for the Sydney SSD. About 15% of the population is aged over 60, which is generally consistent with the Sydney average. North Sydney is expected to experience a slight increase in the older population, a reflection of wider aging population trends.
The key demographic and socio-economic characteristics of North Sydney residents and the implications for water-based recreation are summarised in Table 4.

**Table 4 – Demographic characteristics and implications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Trend / Characteristics</th>
<th>Implications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population growth and structure:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· North Sydney is characterised by high-density urban living and is a significant employment hub for persons residing outside the municipality.</td>
<td>· A steady population increase may increase demand for water-based activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Non-resident population influxes are significant with high numbers of visitors to the LGA for work, education and special events.</td>
<td>· Increased demand for water based facilities that can absorb the needs of resident and working populations at peak times are required (eg. Lunch hours, after work, weekends).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· The LGA has predominantly medium-high density housing types with limited private open space (apartments, townhouses etc).</td>
<td>· Increasing importance of recreation opportunities including water based opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age profile:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· High proportion of young adults.</td>
<td>· Potential demand from young adults for active water-based sport and recreation opportunities, particularly during non-working hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· Gradual ageing population.</td>
<td>· Demand for passive water recreation opportunities for older persons likely to increase in future.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment and Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· High proportion of persons on high incomes and low levels of unemployment (3.5% compared to 6.1% of SSD). Both the median weekly family income and individual income are notably higher than the SSD.</td>
<td>· Employment and education levels typically increase participation rates. This may also influence the time of demand (ie. After work, weekends). Population has higher capacity to pay for quality water-based facilities and services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household structure and mobility:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· There was a notably high proportion of lone person and low proportion of family households comprising two or more people.</td>
<td>· Water based recreation facilities provide participation opportunities that encourage social interaction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>· The North Sydney population is highly mobile with more than half the population moving address between 1996 and 2001 (compared to 39% of the SSD).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Community Needs Assessment

6.1 Activities

The following mechanisms were used to obtain input from users of Council facilities that provide an opportunity for undertaking water based recreation activities:

- An on site survey of park visitors was conducted at Tunks Park on July 2.
- A four page on-line survey was made available via North Sydney Council’s and GHD’s web sites. A four week period for comment was provided for and a closing date of 29 July 2005 applied.
- An A3 poster promoting the project and encouraging interested people to complete the on-line survey was prepared. Approximately 40 posters were erected at the range of parks and reserves that are commonly used by people undertaking water based recreation on Sydney Harbour. A further 10 posters were displayed at key Council buildings such as the Customer Service Centre within Council’s North Sydney offices, Stanton Library and four community noticeboards. The posters were in place for much of July 2005.

6.2 Results

As a result of the above consultative techniques, a total of 21 responses were received – 17 arising from the Tunks Park survey and 4 from the web based survey. The results of the survey should be read bearing in mind the small sample size of the survey but also that the majority of responses were received at Tunks Park which is a regional facility that attracts many users from outside North Sydney LGA.

A brief summary is provided below:

- Key activities undertaken are boating, fishing from the foreshore, kayaking and windsurfing.
- Most popular parks include Balls Head reserve, Cremorne Reserve, Sawmillers Reserve and Tunks Park.
- The majority of users visit parks that allow for water based recreation once a week or once a fortnight.
- The vast majority of users visit such parks in the morning and on weekends.
- The majority of users were between 30 and 69 years of age, broken down as follows:
  - 30 – 39  21.4% of respondents
  - 40 – 49  28.6%
  - 50 – 59  19%
  - 60 – 69  21.4%
• The private vehicle is by far the most commonly used means of transport in accessing parks, followed by walking. This is probably skewed by the high number of surveys originating from Tunks Park where the majority of users access the site by vehicle.

• Most users undertake their preferred recreation activity for more than 2.5 hours.

• When in parks that allow for water based recreation boat ramps, public jetties, pedestrian paths, car parks and toilets are the most commonly used facilities.

A number of generic comments not specific to any locality in North Sydney LGA were also offered, including the following:

• Difficulty in accessing the water for small vehicle borne craft.

• Council needs to retain its policy of allowing dinghies to be left on the foreshore.

• Insufficient capacity for dinghy storage on foreshores.

• Need to improve the sturdiness of rock walls, a number of rocks are quite loose and have the potential to cause accidents.

• Insufficient trailer parking in North Sydney, Tunks Park is the only such facility.

• General lack of public wharves to fish from – ferry wharves prohibit fishing.

• Priority should be given to North Sydney rate payers and residents in determining users of public dinghy storage sheds in North Sydney LGA.

6.3 Implications

A summary of the implications of the community needs assessment is provided below.

• The limited sample size means that conclusions drawn from the user consultation can be regarded as indicative only, rather than being statistically accurate.

• The results of the survey reflect that the majority of responses were received at Tunks Park which is a regional facility that attracts many users from outside North Sydney LGA.

• Boating, fishing from the foreshore and kayaking/windsurfing were the most popular activities among those surveyed.

• Consistent with the above list of popular activities, boat ramps, public jetties, pedestrian paths, car parks and toilets are the most frequently used facilities.

• Dinghy storage, lack of wharves from which to fish and difficulty in accessing the water for small craft were highlighted as issues that need to be addressed.

• Operational issues that arose include insufficient trailer parking within the LGA and allocating priority to North Sydney rate payers and residents in allocating use of dinghy storage facilities.
7. Water Based Recreation Strategy

The Water Based Recreation Needs Study for North Sydney LGA has largely been based on a supply and demand approach, as follows:

- comparing the community’s sport, recreation and open space needs, leisure participation trends and population growth patterns

with

- the actual supply of facilities, services and programs.

This section provides the directions for future planning and management for water based recreation in the LGA over the next 10 years. It comprises four key strategies and a range of supporting actions as set out in an Action Plan.

7.1 Objectives

In order to maintain consistency with the regional planning document “Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan” prepared by DIPNR in 2003, it is proposed that the same objectives be used in evaluating recommended improvements. This will allow for a more detailed application of the objectives to the North Sydney LGA and ensure the outcomes are consistent with the harbour-wide planning document.

The access improvement objectives of the “Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan” prepared by DIPNR in 2003 are;

1. To improve public access to the foreshores and waterways for a broad range of users.
2. To develop multi-purpose recreational facilities and settings.
3. To improve links from the foreshores to regional access networks (waterways, ferry wharves railway stations, cycle paths, main roads).
4. To increase the total length of the foreshore accessible to the public.
5. To increase recreational access opportunities between land and water.
6. To increase facilities catering for non-motorised modes of transport.

7. To conserve natural and cultural heritage values.

These objectives have provided a framework for the allocation of priorities in the action plan.

7.2 Strategies

7.2.1 Strategy 1 – Hierarchy of water based recreation sites

It is recommended that sites within the North Sydney LGA that either directly provide for, or provide facilities that enable water-based recreation should be classified according to a hierarchy. The hierarchy will provide for a range of classifications and reflect the desired role, level of use and facility development of the site. The hierarchy could be based on regional, district and local recreation catchments according to Council’s categorisation of all parks and reserves as set out in the facilities inventory and discussed in Section 4.1. Such a hierarchy provides a sound basis for planning and management of water based recreation facilities in North Sydney.

Table 5 overleaf proposes a hierarchy system and its application to parks in the LGA that are used for water-based recreation. The classification system has been primarily based on the range of public facilities available and the accessibility to and within the site has been used to guide recommendations in the Action Table for the provision of new facilities at specific sites.

The ‘Priority for Development’ is determined by comparing the level of facilities (reflected in the ‘Council category’ column) and the accessibility of the site with the park or reserve’s current level of facilities for water-based recreation. Site constraints such as landuse (bushland) and physical constraints (sea walls, land size) are also taken into account.

Priority for development does not take into account existing issues which need to be addressed (for example rationalisation of dinghy storage at Folly Point or upgrading of degraded pedestrian paths to the foreshore at Cremorne Reserve) it merely looks at future opportunities for new work.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park or Reserve Name</th>
<th>Council Category</th>
<th>Category (for water-based recreation)</th>
<th>Current Role</th>
<th>Level of Use (for water-based activities)</th>
<th>Type of Facilities</th>
<th>Priority for Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cremorne Reserve</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Caters for the recreation needs of locals and district visitors as well as for people from outside the North Sydney LGA</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Offers a diversity of facilities and activities. Contains supporting facilities such as car parking and toilets</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balls Head Reserve</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry Island Reserve</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blues Point Reserve</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP Parklands</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex Coal Loader/Caltex Site</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson Park</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Primarily caters for the needs of North Sydney residents</td>
<td>Medium – High</td>
<td>Offers a more limited range of facilities catering to specific user groups. May contain supporting facilities such as toilets</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gore Cove Reserve</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Lawson Reserve</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milson Park</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primrose Park</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quibaree Reserve</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunks Park</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarworks Reserve</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park or Reserve Name</td>
<td>Council Category</td>
<td>Category (for water-based recreation)</td>
<td>Current Role</td>
<td>Level of Use (for water-based activities)</td>
<td>Type of Facilities</td>
<td>Priority for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waverton Park</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low – Medium</td>
<td>Offers few facilities. Generally for passive pursuits not reliant on specific facility provision</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt Henry Waterhouse Reserve</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Primarily caters for the needs of local residents</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folly Point</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low – Medium</td>
<td>Offers few facilities. Generally for passive pursuits not reliant on specific facility provision</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes Street Foreshore</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low – Medium</td>
<td>Offers few facilities. Generally for passive pursuits not reliant on specific facility provision</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawmillers Reserve</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low – Medium</td>
<td>Offers few facilities. Generally for passive pursuits not reliant on specific facility provision</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spains Wharf Reserve</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low – Medium</td>
<td>Offers few facilities. Generally for passive pursuits not reliant on specific facility provision</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrixton Park</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td></td>
<td>Low – Medium</td>
<td>Offers few facilities. Generally for passive pursuits not reliant on specific facility provision</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consideration also need to be given to opportunities to locate amenities to facilitate water-based recreation in parks and reserves that currently have none. Priority would be given to sites categorised by council as having Regional Significance, followed by District and finally Local parks, as per the list below:

**Regional Parks and Reserves**
- Bradfield Park
- BP Parklands
- Ex Coal-Loader/Caltex Site

**District Parks and Reserves**
- Badangi reserve
- Kurraba Reserve
- Lavender Bay Foreshore
- Oyster Cove reserve

**Local Parks and Reserves**
- Ben Boyd Road Park
- Boatbuilders Walk
- Dowling Street Road Reserve
- Kesterton Park
- Kurraba Wharf Reserve
- Lower Bayview Street Reserve
- Wonga Road Reserve
- Beulah Street Reserve
- Colindia Reserve
- Dr Mary Booth Lookout
- King George Street Road Reserve
- Lady Gowrie Lookout
- Neutral Bay Foreshore

### 7.2.2 Strategy 2 – Address gaps in provision of water based recreation facilities

There is a local and regional shortage of a number of types of facilities that encourage water based recreation. Particular deficiencies include:

- The provision of publicly available dinghy storage facilities. Formal publicly available dinghy storage facilities exist at only two sites in the LGA and informal storage occurs at numerous sites, indicating an existing demand for storage facilities at these areas.
The provision of facilities to encourage the use of smaller non-motorised watercraft such as kayaks, canoes and kitesurfers. There are currently some conflicts at the limited boat ramps between these users and people launching trailer based boats. Alternatively such craft are carried to the waters edge using formal or informal paths.

There are few public wharves or jetties or other facilities in the LGA from which fishing is permitted.

Table 7 (presented after the Action Plan) provides a summary of actions at sites where new facilities are proposed. Priorities in this table are consistent with those in Table 5 above.

7.2.3 Strategy 3 – Community awareness and information

To ensure the efficient utilisation of available facilities by users it is recommended that Council be proactive in the generation, dissemination and promotion of information to residents, visitors, and workers in North Sydney, about opportunities for water based recreation in the LGA and the range of facilities provided by Council and other land management agencies.

7.2.4 Strategy 4 – Council facility management

Allocation of storage facilities

Community feedback to this study suggested that there is some concern over the allocation of formal dinghy storage facilities, particularly the priority afforded to residents and ratepayers. The Recreation Needs Study recommended a similar review of other facilities and the some of the principles for that review, as listed below, would equally apply:

- managing conflicts between different users (eg. Residents and ratepayers and non residents);
- achieving better accountability amongst users to ensure that facilities are in use when allocated;
- reviewing charges relative to rates used by neighbouring Councils for comparable facilities; and
- enhancing community access to information on allocation procedures, rates and facility availability via Council’s website.

Co-ordinated facility planning and provision

There is a need to ensure facilities planning and provision for parks that adjoin significant water recreation sites takes account of water based recreation users needs and demands.

7.2.5 Strategy 5 – Council administrative procedures

There will need to be a range of appropriate ongoing administrative actions undertaken to implement and review the Study.
7.3 Action Plan

The Action Plan in Table 6 provides a list of tasks that should be implemented to achieve the strategies outlined above. Where relevant to water based recreation, actions from the North Sydney Recreation Needs Study Plan have also been included in this report to ensure an holistic approach is achieved.

7.3.1 Implementation

The Action Plan contains targeted recommendations for the North Sydney LGA and its major facilities / reserves. Organisational and resource constraints mean that they will need to be implemented over several years, according to the following sequence:

- **High Priority**: Implement within 1 year of the North Sydney water based recreation needs study being adopted by Council.
- **Medium Priority**: Implement within 2 to 5 years.
- **Low Priority**: Implement within 6-10 years.

Many of the “high” priorities are actions of an administrative nature, which can be undertaken quickly, to set the foundation for the key strategies. It is suggested that Council consider the most appropriate sequence of implementing individual actions following adoption of the water based recreation needs study.

Actions have been prioritised with the guidance of Council, the project Steering Committee and other community stakeholders. All recommendations have been developed on the basis that they are ‘SMART’:

- **S**pecific,
- **M**easurable,
- **A**chievable,
- **R**ealistic,
- **T**imed

7.4 Funding Opportunities

The State Government has established a Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program - a five-year capital works program managed by the Department of Planning in partnership with the Waterways Authority. Funding is on a dollar for dollar basis and it is anticipated that $2 Million will be made available over five years from 2003. Grant funding is being provided by:

- Waterways Authority through the Waterways Asset Development and Management Program;
- Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority; and
- Department of Planning through the Sydney Region Development Fund.

Construction of new boat ramps will be funded 100% by Waterways Authority through additional funds if required.

Projects suitable for funding through the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program will need to accord with the principles and objectives in the Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan.

The website [http://www.grantslink.gov.au/](http://www.grantslink.gov.au/) provides a list of a range of grant programs, both Federal and State Government, which from time to time may also encompass...
recreation facility provision. A February 2006 search did not reveal any current grant programs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy / Issue</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategy 1 – Hierarchy of water based recreation sites</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 1.1 Classification of water based recreation sites. | * Adopt the hierarchy system as outlined in Section 7.2 for classifying water based recreation sites and their appropriate level of facility provision.  
* Utilise the hierarchy as a guideline in planning ongoing facility provision and maintenance. | NSC | High  
ongoing |
| **Strategy 2 – Address gaps in facility provision** | | | |
| 2.1 Co-ordinated facility provision | * Progressively implement the recommendations for the provision of facilities at specific sites contained in Table 6.  
* It is considered that facilities currently provided at sites not addressed in Table 6 are broadly appropriate with the area available and capacity of the site to meet water based recreational needs. Ongoing facility maintenance should be the focus at these reserves. | NSC  
Funding partners | High  
ongoing |
| 2.2 Ensure maintenance and improvements to water based recreation facilities are adequate and consistent with community expectations. | * Undertake a condition audit of supporting facilities at Council controlled sites to determine their condition, level of performance and OH&S compliance.  
* Identify existing sites that require maintenance and / or new facilities, reflect in Plans of Management, allocate funding and carry out necessary works.  
* Apply standards to the design and construction of facilities in parks and open space areas to enhance their visual and landscape character; and ensure such structures have a consistent design, colour scheme and theme, so that they do not detract from the presentation of the North Sydney community. | NSC  
NSC  
NSC | High  
High  
medium |
| 2.3 Implement ongoing enhancements to Council parks. | * Protect the intrinsic environmental values of Council’s open space system.  
* Maintain a watching brief on the strategic acquisition of foreshore (and other) land parcels to advance the establishment of a continuous | NSC | High  
ongoing  
medium |
### Management Strategy / Issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy / Issue</th>
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<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 3.1 Increase community awareness of sport and recreation participation opportunities. | ▪ Encourage community awareness of the *Water based Recreation Needs Study* and its implementation progress.  
▪ Continue to provide information via Council’s website and the local media.  
▪ Ongoing circulation of the North Sydney Sport & Recreation Facilities Directory, for residents, visitors and workers detailing facilities available and relevant contact details. The booklet should be free of charge and widely available to the public, including a downloadable version on Council’s website.  
▪ Review the booklet on an annual basis to ensure it is kept up to date. | ▪ NSC  
▪ Sport and Recreation Clubs  
▪ Community  
▪ Local Media | High (ongoing)  
Low  
Low  
Low |

### Strategy 4 - Council facility management

| 4.1 Allocation of Dinghy Storage facilities | Conduct a comprehensive review of the Council system for allocation and use of dinghy storage facilities.  
▪ Liaise with neighbouring Councils to establish performance benchmarks and market rates. | NSC  
Users  
Adjoining Councils | Medium |
| 4.2 Co-ordinated facility provision and planning | Ensure facilities planning and provision for parks that adjoin significant water recreation sites takes account of water based recreation users needs and use of the site as a whole.  
▪ Investigate the provision of ancillary facilities such as fish cleaning benches and boat wash down bays, commencing with high use regional sites but eventually extending LGA wide.  
▪ Monitor condition of informal pedestrian paths and undertake repair and | NSC | Low  
High  
Ongoing |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy / Issue</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>maintenance as required.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed design of facilities should encourage multiple use where use conflicts will not result – for example multi function pontoons for launching non-motorised craft and providing fishing vantage points.</td>
<td>NSC</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Improve equity and affordability in community access to regional and district sites.</td>
<td>Encourage the community to use public transport, car pool, cycle and walk to regional and district sites, given limited car parking capacity on-site and to minimise local traffic congestion.</td>
<td>NSC, Adjoining Councils</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consider upgrading car parking provisions at key sites for extra capacity and to improve pedestrian safety.</td>
<td>Adjoining Councils</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategy 5 Council administrative procedures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1 Improve Council’s planning and management of sport, recreation and open space assets in the North Sydney LGA.</td>
<td>Implement the <em>North Sydney Water based Recreation Needs Study</em>.</td>
<td>NSC, DTSR, DIPNR, Adjoining Councils</td>
<td>High (ongoing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Be proactive in working with State Government agencies and neighbouring LGA’s to enhance regional outcomes for water based recreation planning.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure that other Councillors and officers with responsibility for sport and recreation matters (planning, management, maintenance etc) receive a copy of the <em>North Sydney Water based Recreation Needs Study</em> and are aware of its recommendations.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Ensure the <em>Water based Recreation Needs Study</em> is a flexible and dynamic strategy, which is responsive to the community’s changing needs</td>
<td>Monitor progress of Action Plan implementation on an annual basis to ensure that recommendations are advancing and consistent with community needs, population changes, Council resources and available funding.</td>
<td>NSC</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct a full review of the <em>North Sydney Water based Recreation Needs Study</em></td>
<td>Adjoining Councils</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Strategy / Issue</td>
<td>Actions</td>
<td>Stakeholders</td>
<td>Priority</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| over time.                  | Study within 5 years (by the end of 2010). Undertake this in conjunction with the review of the Recreation Needs Study and prepare a consolidated report.  
  · Coordinate implementation of the North Sydney water based recreation needs study with the North Sydney Bike Plan, Regional Trails Strategy, Plans of Management, and other relevant planning frameworks. |  | High |

| 5.3 Prioritise actions and endeavour to meet water based recreation needs, within the scope of available funding. | Structure expenditure for water based recreation projects (including maintenance) in accordance with priorities identified in the water based recreation needs study.  
  · Ensure relevant Council officers monitor available funding sources to advance water based recreation initiatives. | NSC | High (ongoing) |

| 5.4 Support a cooperative planning approach between North Sydney Council, surrounding Councils, the State Government and community to better regional outcomes for water based recreation. | Be proactive in working with neighbouring Councils and State Government agencies to achieve better coordination and cooperation in planning and management for water based recreation initiatives across the lower North Shore region. | NSC  
Adjoining Councils  
State Government | High (ongoing) |
### Table 7 – Site Specific facility recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Proposed Reserve Hierarchy for water based recreation</th>
<th>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</th>
<th>Proposed water based recreation facilities</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Recommendations in current planning documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tunks Park, Cammeray</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Boat ramp and car/trailer parking. Beach. Fish cleaning bench.</td>
<td>Provide a dinghy storage facility and a dedicated water access point for non-motorised craft.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Improvements to boat ramp. Small paved beach area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folly Point, Cammeray</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage.</td>
<td>Increase user awareness of dinghy storage facility at Tunks Park when installed. Encourage Folly Point users to utilise the Tunks Park facility in preference to Folly Point.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Provision of formal dinghy storage. Undertake repairs to access tracks at Folly Point, potentially using duckboards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primrose Park, Cremorne</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Car park.</td>
<td>Provide a dedicated water access point for non-motorised craft. Provide improved pedestrian access to the waters edge in Willoughby Bay. Locate development in a manner to retain the natural foreshore area.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Potential access to water along foreshores of Willoughby Bay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Proposed Reserve Hierarchy for water based recreation</td>
<td>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</td>
<td>Proposed water based recreation facilities</td>
<td>Priority</td>
<td>Recommendations in current planning documents</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cremorne Reserve, Cremorne Point (inc Robertsons Point)</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Harbour pool, informal dinghy storage, public wharf/jetty and sailing club.</td>
<td>Investigate provision of dedicated water access point for non-motorised craft near Robertsons Point. Provide improved pedestrian access to the waters edge in Mosman Bay and Shell Cove. Locate development in a manner to retain the natural foreshore area.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Small number of soft access facilities to provide pedestrian access to foreshores of Mosman Bay and Shell Cove.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradfield Park, North Sydney</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Public promenade adjacent to waters edge that facilitates fishing.</td>
<td>Provide a fish cleaning table.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Completed Masterplan provides detailed recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quibaree Park (including Lavender Bay foreshore), McMahon Point</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Dinghy storage shed, public wharf/jetty, boat ramp, and commercial club on adjacent private land.</td>
<td>Investigate provision of dedicated water access point for non-motorised craft. Provide a fish cleaning table.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>New wharf/pontoon at Lavender Bay. Dinghy storage for private and commercial craft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blues Point</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage.</td>
<td>Investigate location for the</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>No recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Proposed Reserve Hierarchy for water based recreation</td>
<td>Existing Water Based Recreation Facilities</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve, McMahon's Point</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>provision of a dinghy storage facility.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawmillers Reserve, McMahon's Point</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage, public wharf/jetty.</td>
<td>Investigate provision of dedicated water access point for non-motorised craft and provision of dinghy storage shed.</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Dinghy storage at Munro Street access.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP Parklands, Waverton</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
<td>Implement recommendations of existing planning documents with regard to former BP site.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Improve pedestrian access to and along foreshore. Upgrade of Dolphin wharf for large recreational craft and possible dinghy storage. Dinghy storage and launching pontoon at former BP site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
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<th>Priority</th>
<th>Recommendations in current planning documents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Former Coal Loader/Caltex Site, Balls Head Bay</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Nil.</td>
<td>Implement recommendations of existing planning documents with regard to former coal loader site.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Improvements including new public access ways, seating and landscaping and establishing linkages to Balls Head Reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarworks Reserve</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Informal dinghy storage.</td>
<td>Investigate provision of small dinghy storage shed</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>No recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry Island Reserve, Wollstonecraft</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Beach access ramp.</td>
<td>Investigate provision of dedicated water access point for non-motorised craft. Investigate provision of dinghy storage shed to service Gore Cove Bay.</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>No recommendations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refer to Management Strategy 2.1 in Table 6 – “It is considered that facilities currently provided at sites not addressed in Table 6 are broadly appropriate with the area available and capacity of the site to meet water based recreational needs. Ongoing facility maintenance should be the focus at these reserves.”
8. Bibliography

Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), 2004, *Assessing Recreation Demand and Opportunities: Northern Sydney Region*, DIPNR.

Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), 2003, *Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Plan*, DIPNR.


North Sydney Council (NSC), 2003, *Foreshore Parks and Reserves Plan of Management*, NSC.
Appendix A

Facilities Inventory