



# OPEN SPACE STRATEGY -

## CLASSIFICATION AND SERVICE LEVEL GUIDE





## Proposed Open Space Asset Hierarchy

Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC) owns, operates and maintains over 500 hectares of Parks and Open Spaces across the region. These open spaces fall under a wide variety of categories with an equally diverse levels of embellishments. The proposed Park Hierarchy, Function and Embellishments will allow for future assignment of each of these spaces to a clearly defined category to:

- a. Create a uniform system to categorise open spaces;
- b. Create a uniform level of embellishment for each category; and
- c. Create a uniform level of service for each category.

This will address currently identified oversupply of open space and under supply of quality regional parks by providing clear guidance on management, future investment and replacement of ageing assets.

Level of Service categories are also defined, which once park hierarchy is established, will define servicing and maintenance requirements for each identified area.

Alignment is required with CCRC Local Government Infrastructure Plan 2019 (LGIP) for base trunk infrastructure supply (development conditions) and Recreation and Natural Areas Asset Management Plan (2019).

Description and proposed Classification Categories, Level of Service Criteria and Embellishments are listed on following pages.





# 1. Classification and Hierarchy

The proposed classification system establishes a hierarchy for the Open Space, Park, Sports Facilities and Bushland networks in the Cassowary Coast Region. The system identifies the varying park types, scale and role of open spaces, Sports Reserves, formal Parks and Bushland Reserves across the network. The proposed park classification will drive the level of future embellishments and align with Asset Management planning outcomes.

## 1.1 Park Function

Recreational or Sporting use are the two broad role classifications of potential park function that can be assigned in an assessment process. This is separate to building facilities, depots, or other land uses that are generally not publicly accessible, i.e. Depots, storage yards or treatment plants.

Depending on the park catchment it serves, some parks in the network may be required to service both roles however they will be classified in accordance with the major role they are intended to achieve. Bushland Reserves also meet both passive recreation and environmental protection roles. They can also serve an important role in biodiversity protection and often provide key linkage areas/corridors for adjoining protected estates.

## 1.2 Park Hierarchy

The proposed park hierarchy identifies the varying park types, scale and role of Open Spaces, Sports Reserves, Formal Parks and Bushland Reserves across the network.

**Open Space** – serves local neighbourhood as green “Open Space”, includes esplanades, and some foreshore and riverine reserves which provide frontage to Marine Open space. \*\*

**Local** - serves a neighbourhood and is located within a close distance to most residents.

**Village** – serves a small township and is generally the only park in the area.

**District** - serves a number of neighbourhoods or smaller towns and provides a higher level of service for a greater number of people. Includes bathing reserves.\*

**Regional** - serves the whole local government area and provides the highest level of service. \*

**Bushland Reserves** - serves entire region, may be available for passive recreation, i.e. waterfalls, beach areas, or valuable for cultural, environmental or water quality values. Level One Bushland reserve includes destination areas, i.e. Waterfalls etc, with a higher level of service than remote or inaccessible reserve areas.

*\*District and regional parks also provide a local recreation function for their immediate catchment.*

*\*\* Verges have been captured within open spaces. Actions on verges will be supported by future policy direction*

## 1.3 Park Function and Hierarchy

### Recreational Parks

Park Function	Park Hierarchy	Role
<b>Recreation Reserves</b>		
Recreation	Open Space	<p>Passive Open space, generally linear and located along river or coastal frontages. Includes easements, undeveloped land roadside reserves and town approaches.</p> <p>Foreshore recreation spaces are located in coastal and riverine areas and provide direct access to marine open space. They are linear in nature and are some of the most popular destinations in the region. They vary significantly throughout the region and include a range of minor park infrastructure items. In some coastal communities they provide the main recreation opportunities in the local area and access to Marine Open Space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreshore management plans may apply to coastal frontage areas.</li> </ul>
		<p>Serves a local neighbourhood and is located within walking distance for most users. Most have limited minor infrastructure and shade is provided by landscape design. Usage is generally short visits late afternoon or weekends. Local parks are generally not located in areas where suitable access is provided to higher park classification levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Park management plan developed to guide future investment</li> </ul>
Recreation	Village Park	<p>Provide informal passive and active recreation and leisure opportunities to a village, appropriate to its setting and context. Located in accessible, prominent areas which promote active transport and provide for the recreational needs of a local community. Village recreation parks provide visual amenity, small areas for kick-about activities, playground, seating, picnic spaces and shade cover. In small communities may also fulfil sporting needs by having minor infrastructure such as half courts, skate parks or other sporting infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic Park management plan developed to guide future investment</li> </ul>
		<p>District recreation parks are large parks which provide an intermediate level of recreation opportunities and facilities to a district catchment. These parks are provided in a variety of settings and cater for large numbers of people. In addition to standard facilities and spaces, district recreation parks may have internal roads, off street parking, public amenities, facilities, and areas for community gathering and events. In small communities may also fulfil sporting needs by having minor infrastructure such as half courts, skate parks or other sporting infrastructure. This category includes bathing reserves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masterplan developed to guide future investment</li> </ul>
Recreation	Regional Park	<p>A very large park with extensive facilities and settings to cater for varied recreation demands from the entire region.</p> <p>Provide a significant range of opportunities to cater for the whole community and should be capable of supporting large community event(s) and multiple activities undertaken simultaneously. People travel long distance to access and generally spend long periods (4 +hours in park).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masterplan developed to guide future investment</li> </ul>



Bushland Reserves

Park Function	Park Hierarchy	Role
Bushland Reserves		
Bushland	Level 1	<p>Bushland reserves with features such as swimming holes, watercourse, beach access or significant environmental areas. These reserves have banner signage, minor visitor infrastructure such as car parking, bollards, and picnic spaces, and are used for nature-based recreation pursuits. They may contain walking tracks or viewing areas dependant on site and usage levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reserve management plan including visitor infrastructure plan, Biosecurity, Rehabilitation or fire control programs in place</li></ul>
Bushland	Level 2	<p>Bushland reserve with no facilities, may have informal parking for access purposes only. Generally, these reserves are only signed for council managed areas and have no or limited supporting infrastructure. May contain significant cultural and environmental areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Biosecurity, Rehabilitation or fire control programs in place</li></ul>



Foreshore at Etty Bay - Photo courtesy of Tropical Tourism North Queensland



## Sports Reserves

Park Function	Park Hierarchy	Role
<b>Sports Reserves</b>		
Sports	District sports	<p>District sports parks provide spaces and facilities for playing and practising formal, organised sporting activities. These parks are large and provide enough space for a variety of playing areas such as courts, playing fields and surfaces. They usually accommodate sports at a local and district function level. They may also provide necessary ancillary infrastructure such as court and field lighting, clubhouses, change rooms, toilets. In most locations they are multiuse and promote the shared use of facilities between a number of sporting clubs. Informal recreation opportunities may also be provided for visitors and local residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masterplan developed to guide future investment</li> </ul>
Sports	Regional sports	<p>Regional sports parks provide the highest standard of playing surfaces and facilities for playing and practising formal, organised sporting activities. They are very large parks which can cater for high numbers of visitation, accommodating regional, district and local function sports. They accommodate a diverse range of formal sporting activities and infrastructure for the local community. They also cater for regional and inter regional sporting events. Multiuse in nature, a number of clubs and organisations share facilities, fields, courts and spaces. Some informal recreation spaces are provided to serve visitors and the local catchment.</p> <p>Contain large facilities that provides spaces and opportunities for playing multiple structured and organised sports. Normally accommodate several sporting associations that share facilities such as grandstands, function rooms, clubhouses, lighting and grounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masterplan developed to guide future investment</li> </ul>





## Service Standards

A level of service, or service standard is issued for reach park and the proposed “Service Rating” System will guide actual level of service. This will allow flexibility in service standards for areas deemed as open space (i.e. little or no embellishments) that are also important public areas for amenity of recreation purposes, i.e. riverine and coastal esplanades, town entrance features or open space areas adjacent to significant infrastructure or facilities, i.e. civic buildings and town libraries.

### 2.1 Service Rating (Level of Service)

Service Rating	Level of Service	Hierarchy
1	Basic maintenance, weeds and pathways kept clear of obstruction, vision and safety drivers for maintenance triggers	General under- utilised or infrequently visited “Open Space” areas, i.e. drainage lines easements etc
2	Minimal Maintenance to comply with standards	Mostly Open Space areas, i.e. coastal and riparian esplanades not adjacent to infrastructure
3	Medium standard of maintenance above minimum standards	Mostly Local and Village Parks, some Open space areas, i.e. Cemeteries
4	Proactive maintenance to ensure high standard of presentation and facility maintenance	Mostly District Parks and sports facilities (seasonal), town approaches and high amenity open space areas
5	High presentation and visitation areas requiring to ensure very high level of presentation and function at all times, weekend and public holiday servicing	Regional Park or Sports precincts (sports may be seasonal)



### 3. Embellishment Lists

Based on Classification of Open Space area the proposed embellishments support park usage by providing a range of activities, features or facilities to use while visiting park area. Identified potential improvements are in addition to the standard embellishments identified in LGIP for basic trunk infrastructure application.

Embellishments provide the key contribution to the active and passive use of the Open Space area.

Classification	Recreation	Sports
Open Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access control (location dependant)</li> <li>Seating (limited)</li> <li>Layby gravel parking area</li> <li>Connecting pathways for walking and Cycling</li> <li>Shade provided through landscaping</li> <li>Entrance signs and static features</li> <li>Memorials</li> <li>Interpretive signage linked to walking tracks/ footpaths and points of interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise equipment if linked by pathways/walking tracks.</li> </ul>
Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small Park sign</li> <li>Access Control (bollards or Kerbing)</li> <li>Limited seating</li> <li>Minor play structures/nature play</li> <li>Open kick about area</li> <li>Gravel pathways for walking and Cycling</li> <li>Nature appreciation</li> <li>Shade provided through landscaping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exercise equipment if linked by pathways/walking tracks.</li> </ul>
Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small Park sign</li> <li>Access Control (bollards or Kerbing)</li> <li>Undercover seating areas</li> <li>Bin service</li> <li>BBQ facility</li> <li>Formal playground suited to lower age groups</li> <li>Toilet</li> <li>Gravel or hardstand parking areas</li> <li>Gravel pathways for walking and Cycling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minor informal sports facilities may be contained within village parks</li> <li>Halfcourt</li> <li>Exercise equipment</li> </ul>
District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small Park sign</li> <li>Access Control (bollards or Kerbing)</li> <li>Undercover seating areas</li> <li>Bin service</li> <li>Playground – lower age groups</li> <li>Skate Ramps, Pump Tracks, Climbing walls</li> <li>Formalised parking</li> <li>Gravel/Concrete pathways for walking and cycling</li> <li>Toilet</li> <li>Water Refill stations/drinking fountains</li> <li>Stinger net (coastal area)</li> <li>All access beach access point</li> <li>BBQ facilities</li> <li>Power for local markets and events</li> <li>Bike racks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Toilets/change room</li> <li>Small Park sign</li> <li>Access Control (bollards or Kerbing)</li> <li>Undercover seating areas</li> <li>Bin service</li> <li>Formalised parking</li> <li>Gravel/Concrete pathways for walking and cycling</li> <li>Water Refill stations/drinking fountains</li> <li>Bike racks</li> <li>Field Lighting</li> <li>Club House/Canteen/storage sheds</li> </ul>

Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large entrance Signage</li> <li>• Directional signage</li> <li>• Pathway Lighting</li> <li>• Boundary Fencing (location dependent)</li> <li>• Bin Service</li> <li>• Playgrounds-all ages and abilities</li> <li>• Nature Play</li> <li>• Skate Ramps, Pump Tracks, Climbing walls</li> <li>• Formalised off street parking (sealed, kerbing)</li> <li>• Toilet and Showers/change rooms</li> <li>• Water Refill stations/drinking fountains</li> <li>• BBQ facilities (multiple)</li> <li>• Power for markets,</li> <li>• Pavilions/shelters for all weather community events, music stages</li> <li>• Concrete all access pathways and kerb ramps</li> <li>• Themed embellishments</li> <li>• Bike racks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large Entrance signage</li> <li>• Field lighting</li> <li>• Pavilions/Grandstand</li> <li>• Toilets and change rooms</li> <li>• Lessees specific needs, i.e. Race tracks, Club Houses/ Canteens/storage sheds, field lighting, goal posts and courts tennis etc</li> </ul>
Bushland Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banner signage</li> <li>• Access control</li> <li>• Seating/shelters</li> <li>• Interpretive signs</li> <li>• Regulatory Signs</li> <li>• Layby gravel parking area</li> <li>• Bushwalking Tracks and viewing/access areas</li> <li>• Visitor infrastructure depending on demand</li> </ul>	
Bushland Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access control</li> <li>• Regulatory boundary signage.</li> </ul>	







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