

# Draft Public Open Space + Street Tree Strategy


2025-2035



Town of  
**Port Hedland**







The Town of Port Hedland would like to acknowledge the Kariyarra, Ngarla, and Nyamal people as the Traditional Custodians of the Town of Port Hedland lands.

We recognise their strength and resilience and pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people of the local community and recognise their rich cultures and their continuing connection to land and waters.

**Advice:**

This document may contain images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have passed away.



## Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this document are made in good faith and while every care has been taken in formulating this document, the Town of Port Hedland makes no representations and gives no warranties of whatever nature in respect of this document, including but not limited to the accuracy or completeness of any information, facts and/or opinions contained within. The Town of Port Hedland, its Elected Members, staff and consultants cannot be held responsible for the use of and reliance on the opinions, estimates, forecasts, recommendations and findings of this document.

**REALM** studios

**grafted**  
STUDIO



Town of Port Hedland

Civic Centre  
13 McGregor Street  
Port Hedland WA 6721





# Message from the Mayor



**I am pleased to present to the community the Town of Port Hedland's updated Public Open Space and Street Tree Strategy 2025.**

This strategy will provide the Town with an updated planning framework to guide the management of our public open spaces.

The Town of Port Hedland is a unique local government area with figures showing almost 25% of our population is aged between 0-14 and the 15-24-year age group sits at just over 10%. There are more than 3500 families in Hedland.

This young age demographic – combined with estimates that show Hedland's population is forecast to grow to 22,077 by 2046 – means it is crucial the Town has a strong plan to invest and maintain its public open spaces.

Attractive public open spaces such as parks and gardens, ovals, playgrounds and the foreshore increase liveability and help make Hedland a more attractive place to work and live. Spaces for sport and recreation help promote healthy lifestyles. They can be culturally significant, or they can play a crucial role in protecting and maintaining the delicate and unique natural ecosystem we have in North-West.

Public feedback offered through wide-ranging engagement with the community, businesses, organisations and groups in Hedland helped shape this policy. I thank everyone who took the time to offer feedback, either online or through in-person engagement sessions.

I look forward to the implementation of this updated strategy and the ongoing benefits for our community as we maximise, maintain and improve our open spaces to ensure we build an even better environment to call home.





# Contents

<b>MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>PART 05 PRECINCT ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>STRATEGY ON A PAGE</b>	<b>6</b>	Our Assessment Approach	52
<b>PART 01 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>8</b>	Comparative Analysis - Pilbara Benchmarking	54
The Purpose of the Strategy	10	Application of the Percentage Standard for POS	55
How to Read this Strategy	11	Audit of Community Infrastructure	56
One Strategy - Two Precinct Areas	13	Port Hedland Assessment	58
Wins to Date	14	South Hedland Assessment	68
<b>PART 02 SETTING THE SCENE</b>	<b>16</b>	Understanding the Impact of Native Title	78
We Are Uniquely Hedland	18	Public Open Space Contributions and Cash in Lieu Requirements	83
What is Hedland's Green Network?	20	Public Open Space Strategy Recommendations	84
Element One: Public Open Space	22	<b>PART 06 OUR FUTURE GREEN NETWORK</b>	<b>86</b>
Element Two: Streets and Corridors	24	Framework for Change	90
Element Three: Water	26	Actions and Implementation Strategies	91
Hedland Community Snapshot	28	Identifying Priority Streets	94
Understanding Community Need	30	Identification of Priority Streets	96
Planning for the Future	32	Identifying the Priority of Public Open Spaces for Improvement	101
<b>PART 03 STATE PLANNING POLICY ALIGNMENT</b>	<b>34</b>	Implementation Framework	103
Planning for Land Use and POS	36	<b>APPENDICES</b>	
Local Strategic Framework	39	Appendix A Street Tree Implementation Plan	
<b>PART 04 HEDLAND'S POS NETWORK</b>	<b>40</b>	Appendix B Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes Report	
The Town's POS Framework	42	Appendix C Additional Analysis Mapping	
Other Components of POS	48	Appendix D Audit Report	



## The Green Network Vision

Hedland is a place people want to live, where nature is a priority and the public open spaces enrich the lives of its community.

## The Values

The following values will guide our decision-making in achieving the vision for Hedland's green network.



### Quality Design

Deliver attractive, high-quality, and inclusive POS through best-practice planning and design that reflects Port Hedland's unique character.



### Safe and Accessible

Prioritise safe, accessible, well-maintained, and welcoming POS spaces, to enhance feelings of safety and promote increased public usage.

## The POS Objectives

The following objectives support the values, and inform the actions towards achieving the vision for Hedland's POS Network.

1. Establish asset management frameworks that maintain design integrity, attractiveness and quality of POS.
2. Implement consistent evaluation processes to review and respond to community feedback, and ensure ongoing improvement of POS outcomes.

1. Apply safety and crime prevention through environmental design principles in planning, design, and management of all POS.
2. Strengthen the green network and connections to open spaces, by activating streetscapes to boost community engagement, passive surveillance and perceptions of safety.

## Street Tree Objectives

In addition the Strategy is guided by street tree and greening specific objectives aimed at achieving the desired greening outcomes.

Beautiful, Resilient  
and Attractive  
Streetscapes

Right Tree for the  
Right Location

Diverse and Suitable  
Tree Species

Incorporate Cultural  
and Indigenous  
Knowledge



# Strategy on a Page



## Resilient and Sustainable

Embed water-sensitive urban design, native vegetation, biodiversity protection, and adaptive landscape strategies into POS. To ensure ecological integrity and build resilience against climate change.

1. Strengthen POS against heat, cyclones, floods, and coastal erosion through climate-smart design.
2. Enhance biodiversity and ecological connections with native, climate-resilient planting for healthy habitats
3. Adopt integrated water management practices within POS, to sustainably manage water resources, reduce urban heat, and mitigate environmental impacts.



## Socially Connected

Create inclusive open spaces that facilitate community identity, foster social interactions, and support meaningful connections among residents.

1. Deliver community-focused spaces that facilitate meaningful social interactions and are responsive to the diverse demographic needs of Hedland.
2. Establish adaptable spaces that can evolve with community requirements, promoting sustained use by local residents and stakeholders.



## Active and Healthy

Enhance community health and well-being through accessible recreational opportunities that support physical and mental wellness, and enrich community life in Port Hedland,

1. Deliver diverse and accessible recreation opportunities to encourage active lifestyles, ensuring equitable distribution of quality recreational amenities throughout Hedland.
2. Support the health and wellbeing of the community by integrating a diverse range of recreational infrastructure tailored to the needs of all demographics.

**Support Dust  
Suppression**

**Invest in  
Below Ground  
Infrastructure**

**Enhance Community  
Health and  
Wellbeing**

**Support Urban  
Liveability**

**Alignment with  
Broader Plans**

**Enhance Character**



# PART 01

## Introduction









# The Purpose of This Strategy

This Public Open Space Strategy provides a comprehensive plan that outlines the vision, goals, and actions required to develop and manage public open spaces within the Town of Port Hedland. It serves as the guiding document to ensure that parks, gardens, town plazas, recreational areas, and other public spaces are well-planned, maintained, and utilised effectively. The overall aim is to improve the quality of life for community members by creating well-designed, accessible, and enjoyable public spaces that meet their diverse needs and promote social interaction, health, and well-being.

## What is Public Open Space?

In Western Australia, the State Government defines Public Open Space (POS) as land that is set aside, used, and managed for public recreation purposes and reserved for public open space in a local planning scheme. These areas typically include green spaces such as parks, play areas, sports fields, and bushland, and are intended for community recreation, enjoyment, and social interaction.

However, in the context of this Strategy, the definition of POS is broader to reflect the way open spaces are understood and used by the community in Hedland. While formal POS reserves form a core part of the network, the Strategy also recognises the value of other publicly accessible land that contributes to the town's recreational, ecological, and social fabric. This includes:

- Land reserved as POS in the Local Planning Scheme;
  - Other publicly accessible reserves with recreation or conservation functions, such as foreshore reserves and coastal parks; and
  - Informal green spaces (IGS), including drainage corridors, natural bushland, street verges, and vacant or remnant vegetated land.
- Together, these spaces make up the Town's POS network, which includes formal parks across the hierarchy (local, neighbourhood, district, and regional, refer to pg 49), informal green spaces, and environmental or conservation reserves that support passive recreation, biodiversity, and cultural values.

Streets also play a crucial role within the network of public spaces. Together with other active transport routes, streets serve as vital connectors within towns, providing safe and inviting spaces for walking, cycling, and social interaction. Furthermore, the incorporation of street tree canopies significantly contributes to the enhancement of the urban green network—offering shade, increased comfort, improved aesthetics, and important support for biodiversity.

This inclusive approach ensures that the Strategy recognises not just land tenure or zoning, but also the lived experience and functional use of open space. It reflects how people access, enjoy, and connect with green space across Hedland. The full extent of this network is illustrated on the POS maps, refer to pages 65 and 75 and forms the basis for future planning, investment, and improvement.





# How to Read this Strategy

This is a large and detailed strategy document, with several different sections. Below, a summary of each section is provided, to help you find what you need.

Part	What is covers and who might find it useful
01 Introduction	This is general information including the purpose of the strategy, introduction to the precinct areas that are part of the strategy, and definition of Public Open Space.
02 Setting the Scene	Introduces Hedland's unique climate, community, and landscape, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that shape how open space is used and valued.
03 State Planning Policy Alignment	Summarises how the Strategy aligns with WA planning policies while also responding to Hedland's local needs and broader uses of open space.
04 Hedland's POS Network	This is predominantly for the general community member who would like an understanding of how much POS the Town has and where it is.
05 Precinct Assessments	Predominantly for developers and those involved in subdivision process. This part outlines how the Town will plan for and manage the green network now and into the future.
06 Our Future Green Network	This is predominantly for developers and Town to use as a guide on how to best plant and care for trees in Hedland's unique environment.
Appendices	Provided for further background information and context in addition to the Strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix A Street Tree Implementation Plan</li><li>• Appendix B Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes Report</li><li>• Appendix C Additional Analysis Mapping</li><li>• Appendix D Audit Report</li></ul>

# One Strategy - Two Precinct Areas

The Strategy focuses on two precincts, Port Hedland and South Hedland which have distinct characteristics and challenges that require different POS responses.

By planning for the challenges and opportunities that are present in each Precinct, the Strategy will ensure that Port Hedland and South Hedland to meet the evolving needs of the community and to ensure that all community members have equitable access to POS.

## Port Hedland Precinct

The coastal Port Hedland precinct, is defined by its industrial heritage and foreshore access. It has a POS network shaped by both residential needs and tourism potential. Key challenges for POS include:

- **Decreasing residential population and increasing shift towards tourism:** The POS network must shift its purpose to also serve as a gateway for tourists.
- **Low canopy cover in POS:** Need to improve tree canopy coverage to improve the comfort of POS.
- **Coastal erosion:** POS design and planning along the foreshore must address the impacts of waves and wind.
- **Equitable access:** Need to address existing gaps in accessibility for all residents to have walkable access to POS.

## South Hedland Precinct

In contrast, South Hedland is predominantly residential, with a higher population density and greater demand for day-to-day recreational spaces. The key challenges for POS include:

- **Limited diversity of POS:** Need to improve diversity of recreational facilities including for organised and informal sports.
- **Climate:** Being inland, POS is subjected to harsher temperatures requiring design responses to make POS comfortable.
- **Low canopy cover in POS:** Need to improve tree canopy coverage to improve the comfort of POS.
- **Equitable access:** Need to address existing gaps in accessibility for all residents to have walkable access to POS







Port Hedland  
Precinct

South Hedland  
Precinct



# Wins to Date

Since adopting the previous Open Space Strategy in 2019, the Town has delivered a range of significant public open space improvements over the past five years, including the

Public Open Space	
South Hedland Skatepark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Development of the skate park roof structure to achieve 80% shade coverage.</li><li>Two murals were also incorporated during the Street Art Festival 2023.</li></ul>
Koombana Lookout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Koombana masterplan construction led to improved public access, pathways and viewing areas, new shaded areas, installation of a new barbecue, improved landscaping, and new signage.</li></ul>
Spolibank Marina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Marina opened in 2024 with extensive landscaping, public amenities, shade structures and public art.</li></ul>
Marquee Park	Development of three dog off-leash areas including a separate puppy area, a small-medium dog area and an all-dog area.
Shay Gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Upgrade of playground, installation of new pump track and landscaping works.</li></ul>
Cemetery Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Garden bed revitalisation</li></ul>
Port Hedland Skate Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Installation of new pump track, replacement of playground and landscaping works.</li></ul>
Marapikurrinya Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Redevelopment of public open space, and replacement of playground and installation of shade structure.</li></ul>
Lions Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enhanced greening spaces and installation of footpaths.</li></ul>
Courthouse Gallery Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Redevelopment of public open space in partnership with BHP.</li></ul>
Koombana Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Playground renewal and ablutions upgrades.</li></ul>
Pretty Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Playground renewal and installation of new shade structures.</li></ul>
Yikara Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Landscaping upgrades and installation of new playground equipment and soft fall</li></ul>
Kevin Scott Oval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Landscaping upgrades and installation of new playground equipment and soft fall</li></ul>
Green Cover	
Project LEAF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In partnership with BHP, Greening Australia, and Curtin University, 88,000 native trees and shrubs were planted over 2.5 hectares.</li></ul>
Street Tree Planting Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Town has planted approximately 675 trees along Hamilton Road, Wallwork Road, and North Circular Road</li></ul>
Dune Revegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The dunes adjoining the Goode Street and Sutherland Street seawalls were revegetated with native species.</li></ul>
Other Projects	
The Commons Landscaping	
Port Hedland Pioneer Cemetery Beautification	
Hedland Sustainable Living Show 2024	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In partnership with Care for Hedland and BHP</li></ul>	







# PART 02

## Setting the Scene









# We Are Uniquely Hedland

In a world where each community holds its own story and character, Hedland stands out with its distinctive blend of natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant community spirit. “Uniquely Hedland” delves into the elements that make this place unlike any other.

From its iconic red landscapes and vast coastal vistas to its cultural tapestry woven from Indigenous heritage and industrial growth, Hedland’s identity is as bold and resilient as the people who call it home.

Hedland experiences a tropical semi-arid climate, with very hot summers and mild winters. Over time, native vegetation has adapted to this harsh climate and is typically sparse, with plant life adapted to survive in arid conditions. The pre-clearing landscape was dominated by hardy shrubs, grasses, and scattered trees that can tolerate the saline and dry conditions.

The construction of the first jetty in 1896, brought about a period of significant change to the natural environment of Hedland. By 1969, the first shipment of iron ore had left the port and significant mining of the area’s resources disrupted many of its natural systems. With this growth in industry, came significant growth in population and the clearing of vegetation to make way for housing.

Understanding these unique attributes is crucial when planning green infrastructure, as it ensures that it not only respects and preserves the natural and cultural heritage but also enhances the local character and meets the specific needs of the community. By embracing what makes Hedland special, we can create public spaces that are not only functional and sustainable but also reflective of the community’s identity and values.



## Two Towns

The distinct historical, geographical, and functional differences between Port Hedland as an industrial hub and South Hedland as a residential and commercial centre necessitate a tailored POS strategy that addresses each area’s unique character, demographics, and functions to effectively meet community and economic needs.







### Regional Town

Hedland's rugged outdoor lifestyle, contrasting with urban centres like Perth, requires tailored planning policies that consider its isolation and unique recreational needs, highlighting the need for a POS strategy that aligns public spaces with local lifestyles and environmental conditions.



### Transient Town

Hedland's transient population, driven by its role as a regional hub for the resources sector and the challenges of high living costs, consists largely of FIFO workers and residents from remote areas seeking essential services, resulting in a constantly shifting workforce and difficulties in sustaining long-term residency.



### Climate

Hedland's significant challenges from extreme weather—such as tropical cyclones, extreme heat, and coastal erosion—underscore the need for a POS strategy focused on designing resilient public spaces that ensure safety, durability, and adaptability to the region's environmental vulnerabilities.



### Natural Beauty

Hedland's natural beauty, characterised by its unique coastal ecosystems, including nesting green and flatback sea turtles and a rare inter-tidal reef that connects to the urban area, underscores the need for a POS strategy that integrates conservation efforts to protect the town's ecological heritage while fostering connections between residents, visitors, and the natural environment.



### Health

Hedland's significant health challenges—including mental health issues from remote living and mining pressures, physical health impacts from harsh climate and dust, and limited healthcare access—highlight the importance of well-designed public spaces that promote recreation, social interaction, and community support to enhance overall well-being for residents.



### Community

Hedland's resilience and strong sense of community, bolstered by the vibrancy and stability brought by young families, underscore the need for public spaces that celebrate this spirit and provide family-friendly amenities to enhance social bonds and support the town's growth.



### Multipurpose Infrastructure

There is a crucial need to view infrastructure like streets and drainage systems as multi-functional spaces, particularly in South Hedland, where the extensive drainage network can be transformed into vibrant public areas that foster social interaction and recreation, enhancing community value despite challenges like maintenance and anti-social behavior.



### Industrial Core

Hedland's industrial character, shaped by the port, drives its economy and development but also presents challenges like air quality and road conditions; however, the commitment of local mining businesses to carbon offset programs offers opportunities to enhance community environmental initiatives and mitigate the ecological footprint.



### Resources

Hedland's isolation and harsh geography create significant resourcing challenges, driving up costs and complicating logistics for transporting goods, resulting in limited availability of materials and exacerbating issues like water scarcity due to the extreme climate.

# What is Hedland's Green Network?

A green network is a connected system of natural and semi-natural areas, like public open space, streets, waterways, and bushland.

This network helps improve the environment by providing services such as cleaning water, improving air quality, offering spaces for recreation, and helping with climate change. It also supports plants and animals, making cities healthier places to live. By developing our green network we can improve the quality of life for people and make Hedland a more comfortable place to live.

Port Hedland's Green Network is made up of three key elements:

## Public Open Spaces

Generally described as land set aside for the purpose of public enjoyment and for the protection of unique, environmental, social and cultural values for existing and future generations. Public open space includes public parks, play spaces, natural areas of bushland and the foreshore.

## Water

An essential element that contributes to the ecological health, recreational opportunities, and visual appeal of Hedland. It includes natural features such as rivers, creeks, wetlands, and coastal waters, as well as man-made water bodies like drainage systems, swales, lakes and ponds. It also includes water that is underground.

## Streets & Corridors

Streets are essential town connectors, creating safe, welcoming spaces for walking, cycling, and social interaction. Incorporating tree canopies enhances the green network, providing shade, comfort, amenity, and biodiversity support.









# Element One: Public Open Space

## Why Plan for Public Open Space?

Careful planning of public open spaces is essential to maximise their benefits and meet the diverse needs of a community. It ensures inclusivity and accessibility, allowing people of different ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds to enjoy the space. A well-planned area accommodates various activities, from passive relaxation to active recreation, catering to a wide range of preferences. Environmental sustainability is also a key consideration, with planning efforts protecting and enhancing natural habitats and incorporating features that mitigate climate impacts, such as stormwater management and canopy cover. Safety and security are prioritised through design elements that consider light and clear sight lines, which help prevent crime and accidents, and create spaces that can also serve as emergency assembly points.

Efficient use of resources is another crucial aspect, with sustainable materials and low-maintenance landscaping reducing long-term costs. Aesthetic and cultural considerations play a role in creating attractive spaces that reflect the community's cultural heritage and identity, fostering pride and connection.

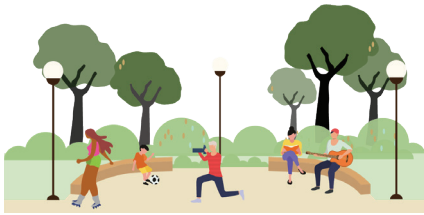
Planning also focuses on the long-term viability of open spaces, considering future growth and changing needs to keep them relevant over time. Community engagement in the planning process builds support and ensures the spaces align with the community's desires and priorities. Economic efficiency is achieved through the balance of social, environmental and economic factors to ensure that public open spaces are well used, accessible and provide value to the community.

Public open spaces promote health and well-being by encouraging physical activity and social interaction, contributing to public health and mental well-being. Access to well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing areas provides a place for relaxation and stress relief. Furthermore, careful planning ensures these spaces are well-connected with other parts of the urban environment, enhancing mobility and accessibility. Integration of multiple functions, such as recreational, social, ecological, and cultural uses, within the same space, is also facilitated.

Overall, thoughtful planning ensures that public open spaces are functional, sustainable, and reflective of the community's needs and values.



# The Value of Public Open Space



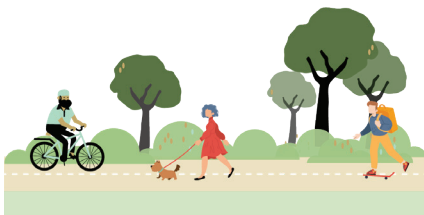
## Visual Appeal and Amenity

Well-designed, attractive open spaces enhance the town's appearance and provide visual relief from built areas. Clean, shaded, and active spaces also improve safety by encouraging community presence, passive surveillance, and deterring anti-social behaviour—creating places that feel welcoming and secure.



## Improved Physical and Mental Health

Access to well-designed green spaces encourages physical activity such as walking, cycling, and play—helping to reduce chronic health conditions and promote mental wellbeing. These spaces offer a peaceful environment that provides stress relief and supports healthy lifestyles.



## Movement and Connectivity

POS contributes to active transport by providing safe and accessible walking and cycling routes. Well-connected open space networks support mobility within and between neighbourhoods, encouraging sustainable travel and reducing reliance on cars.



## Environmental and Biodiversity Benefits

Urban green spaces help improve air quality, manage stormwater, reduce heat, and protect natural habitats. They support local biodiversity by providing habitat for native flora and fauna and contribute to the overall ecological health of the town.



## The Economic Value of Public Open Space

Attractive and functional public spaces enhance property values, attract investment, and increase foot traffic in commercial areas. They support tourism by offering appealing destinations and event spaces, contributing to the local economy.



## Social Connection and Inclusion

Public open spaces act as shared community hubs where people of all ages and backgrounds can gather, interact, and participate in cultural or recreational activities. They strengthen social ties, promote inclusion, and enhance the community's sense of belonging.



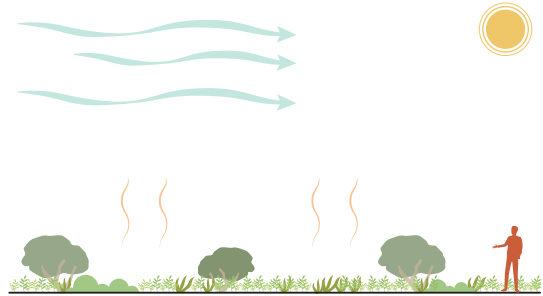
# Element Two: Streets & Corridors

## Why are Green Streets & Corridors Important ?

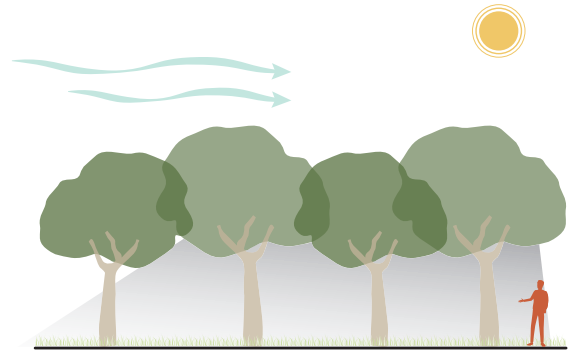
The Town recognises that streets and corridors, enhanced with integrated green cover, are essential elements of our green network. These corridors not only provide vital connections between our homes, workplaces, and the broader landscape but also serve as critical spaces for travel, recreation, play, and social interaction. By prioritising greening within streets and corridors, we can significantly improve everyday experiences, creating inviting and vibrant places that attract and retain residents.

As the Town continues to expand, greening streets and corridors must be considered essential infrastructure, crucial for long-term community wellbeing and environmental resilience. Trees along streets and corridors play a particularly important role, cooling urban environments, promoting biodiversity, and improving air quality. Their presence is now more important than ever.

This plan emphasises establishing conditions that support healthy and long-lived street trees, ensuring green cover is seamlessly integrated into streets, corridors, drainage systems, and public open spaces, thus enhancing and strengthening the open space network for generations to come.



Natural Landscape



Preferred Urban Environment



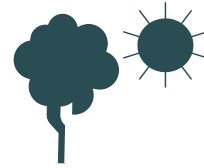


# The Benefits of Green Streets & Corridors



## Creating Community Hubs

Green cover within public open spaces (POS) plays a key role in creating inviting communal hubs where people from diverse backgrounds come together. Trees and greenery not only enhance the beauty of these spaces but also promote social interaction, cultural activities, and public events, fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity.



## Shading and Cooling

Green cover is essential for cooling urban environments. Streets without tree cover can be 10-20 degrees hotter than surrounding areas, contributing to the urban heat island effect (UHIE). Asphalt surfaces retain heat and cause elevated nighttime temperatures. By increasing tree cover along streets—which account for 20-30% of the urban footprint—the Town can significantly reduce heat and create cooler, more comfortable public spaces.



## Supporting Recreation

As Hedland's population increases, green cover within streets and public spaces becomes even more important for recreation. Trees and greenery enhance streets, transforming them into vital spaces for walking, social interaction, and play. With walking being the most popular recreational activity in Hedland, the presence of green cover improves the experience and helps meet growing recreational needs.



## Safety and Walkability

Green cover, especially in the form of trees, enhances the safety and walkability of streets. Research shows that tree-lined streets not only make walking more attractive but also reduce the number of vehicle crashes. Trees improve pedestrian safety by lowering driver stress and encouraging slower, safer driving. In addition, roadside greenery positively influences how pedestrians perceive the safety and comfort of walking routes.



## Wayfinding and Sense of Place

Green cover contributes to wayfinding and strengthens the sense of place in urban areas. Trees help define the character of a location, offering visual cues for navigation while enhancing the identity of a space. Studies show that residents living closer to green spaces feel more connected to their community and engage in more social activities, underscoring the importance of green cover in fostering a sense of belonging.



## Visual Appeal

Green streets and corridors enhance the visual quality of the urban environment by softening infrastructure, framing views, and adding natural textures and colour. Tree-lined streets and landscaped verges create more attractive, welcoming spaces that improve the experience of walking, cycling, and driving. These green elements strengthen local character, promote a sense of place, and signal care—encouraging community pride and greater use.



# Element Three: Water

Water is the lifeblood of Hedland's green network, a scarce and invaluable resource that underpins the existence and sustainability of parklands, bushland and green cover.

In a region defined by arid conditions and limited rainfall, the careful management and innovative use of water are not just beneficial but essential. Water is not merely a component of Hedland's green network—it is its foundation. Without it, the vision of an inviting, and functional urban landscape would remain unattainable. The availability and management of water resources will determine the success of urban greening initiatives, influencing everything from air quality to urban cooling and overall community well-being.

Thus, water must be a central consideration in all aspects of public open space planning and development. Its careful stewardship is critical to ensuring that the town's green spaces can thrive in harmony with the arid landscape. This challenge also presents an opportunity—to innovate, adopt sustainable practices, and envision a future where Port Hedland's urban oasis flourishes against the backdrop of its unique environment.

## Water Scarcity

Historically, groundwater has been the primary source of irrigation for parklands in Western Australia, including the Pilbara region. Once considered an abundant and easily accessible resource, groundwater availability has become increasingly precarious due to declining rainfall and groundwater recharge, coupled with rising demand from urban development. This necessitates a shift towards more sustainable and efficient water use practices, and the inclusion of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles into the planning and design of POS.

In Hedland, the natural landscape is characterised by sporadic vegetation, with lushness often confined to areas with access to groundwater or stored soil moisture. The existing drainage infrastructure, designed to quickly divert stormwater away from urban areas, exacerbates the challenge. With limited permeable surfaces, much of the stormwater is rapidly channeled away, reducing opportunities for natural infiltration that could support vegetation. This situation highlights

the need for a strategic approach to managing water resources in the town's urban landscape. A lack of trees and vegetation in Port Hedland contributes to several environmental and health issues, including increased dust, poor air quality, heightened urban heat islands, and reduced liveability. These challenges underscore the importance of integrating water management into urban greening efforts. By enhancing the permeability of public and private lands and adopting innovative water management strategies, such as WSUD and the use of alternative water sources, the Town can create a more resilient and sustainable green network.

## Extreme Weather Events and Flooding

The area also experiences extreme water events such as cyclones and flooding due to its tropical climate and coastal location. Cyclones, which typically occur between November and April, bring heavy rainfall, destructive winds, and storm surges that can cause significant damage to homes, infrastructure, and the natural environment. These storms have also led to major disruptions in the town's port operations, which are vital for iron ore exports. Notable cyclones, such as Cyclone Veronica in 2019 and Cyclone George in 2007, have had severe impacts on the community, resulting in property damage and even loss of life.

Flooding is another major concern in Port Hedland, especially during the wet season and cyclonic events. Heavy rains can overwhelm drainage systems, leading to water damage, road closures, and disruption to essential services. Low-lying areas are particularly vulnerable, and floodwaters can rise between 0.5 to 1.5 meters on average, with even higher levels during severe cyclones when storm surges are involved. These extreme water events pose ongoing challenges for the town's infrastructure and public safety, prompting continued efforts to improve drainage systems and resilience against cyclones.







# Hedland Community Snapshot



## People

In 2021, the median age of people living in Town of Port Hedland was:

**32 years**

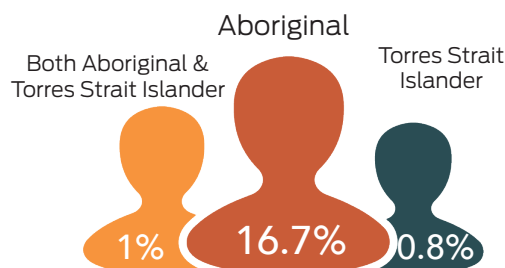


Of the 15,684 residents in Town of Port Hedland in 2021:

**24.2%** were aged 0-14 years

**41.1%** were aged 25-44 years

## Indigenous Status



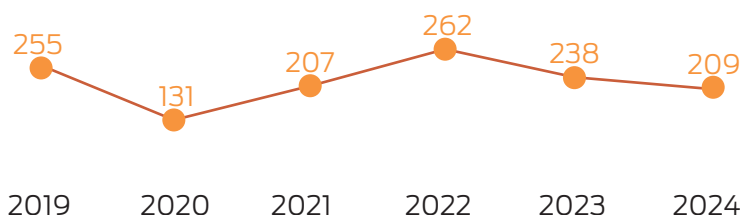
A defining feature of Hedland's community is the high proportion of family households with children. In 2021, the Port Hedland townsite recorded approximately 6,228 households, with family households making up 70.5% of the total. Among these family households, 64% included children (in either one- or two-parent families), while 34.1% were couples without children.

## Short Stay Accommodation



**80%** of short stay accommodation is workforce.

## Overnight Visitors



5-year trend showing fluctuating visitation post-COVID is helpful to project future demand on open space.

## Travel

**62%**

of domestic visitors travel in couples

**24%**

are families



Average Trip Length

**9 Days**

**66% stay 1-7 nights**



## Recreation Trends

60%

of survey respondents  
like to recreate in parks  
and open spaces

Average time spent

1 - 2 hours

Average time spent

30 minutes to 1 hour



49%

of survey respondents  
attend both weekdays  
and weekends

Top 5 recreation activities within the  
Town of Port Hedland:

- Supervising children playing
- Socialising
- Walking
- Sitting, resting and relaxing
- BBQ's and picnics



The most popular recreation activities outside of a park were:

97%

of survey respondents  
regularly recreated outside  
of parks.

69%



Water Based  
Activities  
(swimming,  
boating etc)

68%



Camping

60%



Fishing

55%



4WD

40%



Using Walk Trails



# Understanding Community Need

The Hedland community highly values its open spaces and actively engages with them for recreation, socialising, and connection to the environment. Approximately 60% of community members regularly use local parks, with Cemetery Beach, Pretty Pool, and Shady Gap parks identified as key recreational and social gathering areas. Beyond park spaces, community members frequently participate in diverse outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, four-wheel driving, water-based recreation, and walking trails—demonstrating a strong cultural connection to the natural landscape and coastline.

Given Hedland's challenging arid climate, quality green network must thoughtfully address extreme heat, persistent dust, and limited water availability. Community feedback has underscored the critical need for more shaded areas, cooling water features, and vegetation buffers to enhance comfort and usability. Selecting drought-resistant native plants and implementing water-efficient irrigation will ensure these spaces remain vibrant, sustainable, and environmentally responsible.

Health and wellbeing are central to the community's interaction with open spaces. With high local rates of chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes, accessible parks and recreational facilities are essential for promoting active lifestyles. Additionally, carefully designed green spaces offer vital mental health benefits, providing peaceful environments that alleviate stress and encourage community connection.

Hedland's diverse demographics—including permanent residents, transient workers, and visitors—each bring unique expectations to open spaces. Permanent residents typically favour family-friendly amenities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, and community gardens, whereas transient workers and visitors often seek spaces that support active recreation, social gatherings, and cultural engagement. A balanced open space network must accommodate this broad range of needs through inclusive, multi-functional designs. Community consultation identified essential

characteristics of quality open spaces: safety, cleanliness, sustainability, and high amenity. Regular maintenance, improved lighting, and proactive hazard management are vital to ensuring spaces remain welcoming and secure. Inclusive design principles, incorporating wheelchair-accessible pathways, seating, restrooms, and age-friendly facilities, further support equitable use for all community members.

Quality open spaces in Hedland should also reflect and celebrate local Indigenous culture and history through storytelling areas, culturally sensitive design, and locally commissioned art installations. Integrating environmental considerations, including community gardens, native planting schemes, and educational signage, promotes ecological awareness and sustainability.

Connectivity between open spaces, homes, and schools emerged as a key community priority, with strong support for enhancing walkability and cycling infrastructure. Research supports this local aspiration, affirming that connected green networks not only improve physical health but also foster social cohesion, reduce isolation, and address community health inequalities.

Finally, proximity alone does not ensure park utilisation. Community barriers such as accessibility issues, perceived discrimination, and feelings of alienation must be intentionally addressed through inclusive design and responsive management. By addressing these factors, Hedland's open space network can genuinely become accessible, inclusive, and welcoming, fostering community wellbeing and ecological health for all residents.







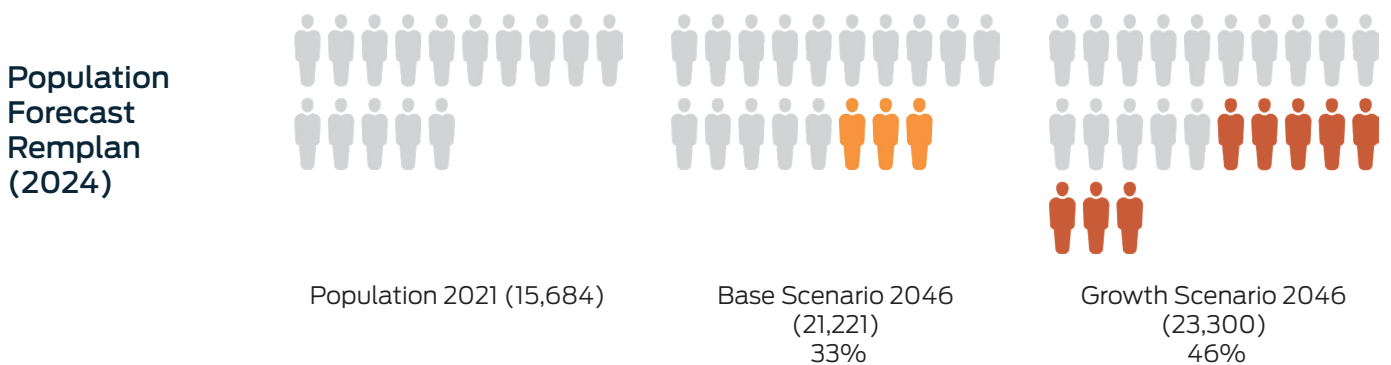


# Planning for the Future

By understanding future population growth and identifying key growth areas, we can proactively ensure that there is adequate and accessible open space to meet the community's needs into the future.

## Future Population

Future growth will greatly influence where Council plans infrastructure investment. The population growth model referenced in this Strategy was undertaken by Remplan and released in 2024.



### Planning for Growth

The model shows population growth for Hedland in the future. A base scenario of growth is identified of 21,221 (34%) and a growth case of 23,300 (47%) above 2021 levels.

Significant higher population growth is anticipated in South Hedland than Port Hedland. This aligns with current planning through the Local Planning Strategy (LPS) 2021. This is influenced by:

- The West End Improvement Scheme 1, which will lead to a reduction in the population of the West End of Port Hedland.
- Minor growth with the development of several infill sites in the East End of Port Hedland
- A larger number and area of greenfield development sites in South Hedland coming online.

### Impact on POS Planning

1. Future population growth in South Hedland will require Council to address changing needs for community infrastructure, to ensure populations have access to a range of community infrastructure (Refer to the Community Infrastructure Assessment in Part 06).
2. Private POS, created by developers and not part of Council's structure planning will not be accepted by Council as POS under their management. These spaces may require guidelines and policy to ensure developers plans align with community needs.
3. Development in 'greenfield' and 'brownfield' areas needs to consider accessibility to open space in line with walking catchment guidelines.
4. Due to Hedland's regional context, it will be essential to establish the needs of the community through engagement (rather than simply relying on population guidelines) as per the Western Australia Guidelines for Community Infrastructure (2020).





### Port Hedland's Expected Growth

- The West End Improvement Scheme 1, will lead to a reduction in the population of the West End.
- Under a growth scenario the East End is forecast to add round 534 additional people by 2046, a 13% increase from 2021 (Remplan, 2024).

#### Short term growth

1. The Stables
2. Dempster Street

#### Medium term growth

3. Telstra Tower Site
4. Athol Street

#### Long term growth

5. Former WWTP Site



### South Hedland's Expected Growth

- Greater population growth is expected in South Hedland due to several greenfield developments.
- Under a growth scenario development is forecast to add around 6873 additional people by 2046, a 58% increase from 2021 (Remplan, 2024).

#### Short term growth

1. Hamilton Road
2. Pundulmurra
3. Trumpet Way
4. Western Edge

#### Medium term growth

5. Koombana
6. Osprey West
7. Western Edge

#### Long term growth

8. Osprey Rural



# PART 03

## State Planning Policy Alignment









# Planning for Land Use and POS

There are several key planning documents that impact the provision of POS in the Town of Port Hedland. They include local planning schemes, state planning policies, development control policies, and operational policies like Liveable Neighbourhoods.

The Public Open Space and Street Tree Strategy has been developed in response to, and in line with these documents and strategies, some of which are legislation and must be adhered to. The following outlines the key external documents that have been taken into account.

Document	Explanation
Classification Framework for POS (2012), Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries	The Classification Framework for POS was developed to address the lack of clear and consistent terminology and definition when planning for POS. The Town has looked to align with these classifications and incorporated POS functions into the Town's POS framework.
Development Control Policy (DCP) 2.3 – POS in Residential Areas, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	The Policy looks to ensure that all residential development is complemented by adequate, well-located areas of POS which provide for the recreational needs of residents.
Position Statement: Expenditure of cash-in-lieu of POS, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	A position statement for the expenditure of cash-in-lieu for POS was developed to provide additional guidance in conjunction with the Development Control Policy 2.3.
Development Control Policy (DCP) 1.3 – Strata Titles, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	The policy deals with those classes of strata title proposals which require the approval of the WAPC and sets out the criteria to be used in the determination of applications for that approval. It includes provision for a contribution to public facilities such as POS.
Liveable Neighbourhoods 2009 & DRAFT Liveable Neighbourhoods 2015, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	This is the operational policy for the design and assessment of structure plans and subdivision for new urban (predominantly residential) areas in the metropolitan area and country centres, on greenfield and large urban infill sites. Sets out POS requirements of the WAPC.
State Planning Policy (SPP) 7.2 Precinct Design, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	The Precinct Design SPP 7.2 was recently gazetted and guides the preparation of precinct structure plans, local development plans, subdivision and development in areas identified as precincts. Policy outcome 6 specifically relates to providing comfortable public spaces that encourage physical activity, enable a range of uses and are accessible to all.
Precinct Design Guidelines, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage	SPP 7.2 Precinct Design is to be read in conjunction with the Precinct Design Guidelines which provide more detailed information. The relevant section for the Strategy is Design Element 3: Public Realm.





## How does it influence the provision of POS?

The State Governments Development Control Policy 2.3 – Public Open Space in Residential Areas requires Local Governments to provide 10% of its total Gross Subdivisible Area (GSA) as POS. The GSA reflects the amount of land within the Town that has the potential to be subdivided.

The following types of land are to be excluded from the Town's POS calculations and do not count toward the gross subdivisible area (GSA):

- Foreshore reserves
- Bush Forever areas
- Natural water bodies
- Environmentally Sensitive Policy (EPP) wetlands
- Local bushland with restricted public access, unless it is part of the two percent of 'restricted use' local POS (refer to: LN 2009, Element 4 R5 and R33)
- Land reserved as parks and recreation under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), regardless of function
- Land zoned as industrial, rural, or private recreation under the MRS
- Business, civic, development, district centre, hotel, industry, local centre, mixed business, private institution, regional centre, service station, and special use zones/reserves under LPS 3, including leased and private sporting clubs (e.g., bowls, tennis, golf, soccer)
- Public purpose or utility reserves under the MRS and LPS, such as fenced drainage sumps
- Recreation facilities, leisure facilities, or other community facilities
- Artificial water bodies are considered 'restricted use' local POS for up to two percent of the 10 percent calculation, with any surplus being excluded. If deemed 'restricted use,' the surface area of the water body is included in the GSA and POS calculation.

While the Draft Operational Policy 2.3 – Planning for Public Open Space cannot influence decision-making—having been released for public consultation only—it still provides useful guidance. The draft excludes regional open space, foreshore reserves, community purpose sites, Bush Forever areas, and conservation reserves from the definition of POS. However, it acknowledges that these areas may influence the calculation of gross subdivisible area and, in some cases, justify a reduced POS requirement, as outlined in Liveable Neighbourhoods. This recognition is particularly important in Hedland, where many residents use these broader open spaces for recreation. Notably, 40% of survey respondents reported not relying on formal POS for recreation—yet these spaces still play a vital role in providing shade, cooling, habitat, and drainage. This underscores the importance of recognising all types of open space within the Town's green network.

This Strategy recognises that minimum requirements are needed to establish a baseline standard to provide a consistent measure of POS provision across local government areas. However, measuring the adequacy of POS provision through an arbitrary percentage based on a static area value does not provide insight into what is required from a place performance perspective.

POS provision is complex and multifaceted, and requires the consideration of nuanced social, environmental, cultural and economic needs of each specific place. As such, the application of the 10 per cent standard for POS is discussed within the confines and scope to which it applies as per DCP 2.3. However, for the future planning of POS in Hedland, the assessment undertaken has considered this percentage in conjunction with other key measures including community sentiment, accessibility and quality.





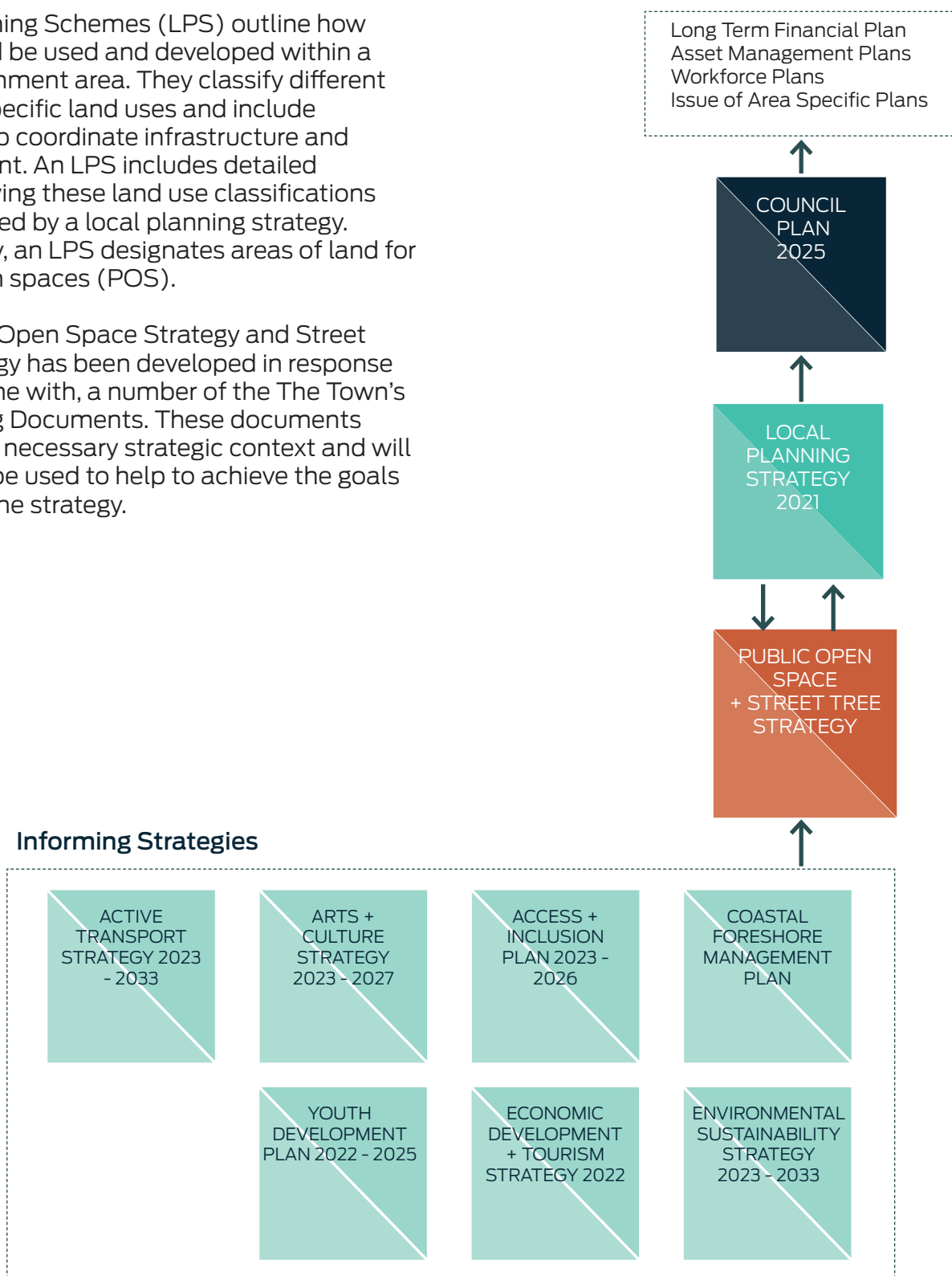


# How does this strategy fit into the Local Strategic Framework?

## What is a Local Planning Scheme?

Local Planning Schemes (LPS) outline how land should be used and developed within a local government area. They classify different areas for specific land uses and include rules to help coordinate infrastructure and development. An LPS includes detailed maps showing these land use classifications and is backed by a local planning strategy. Importantly, an LPS designates areas of land for public open spaces (POS).

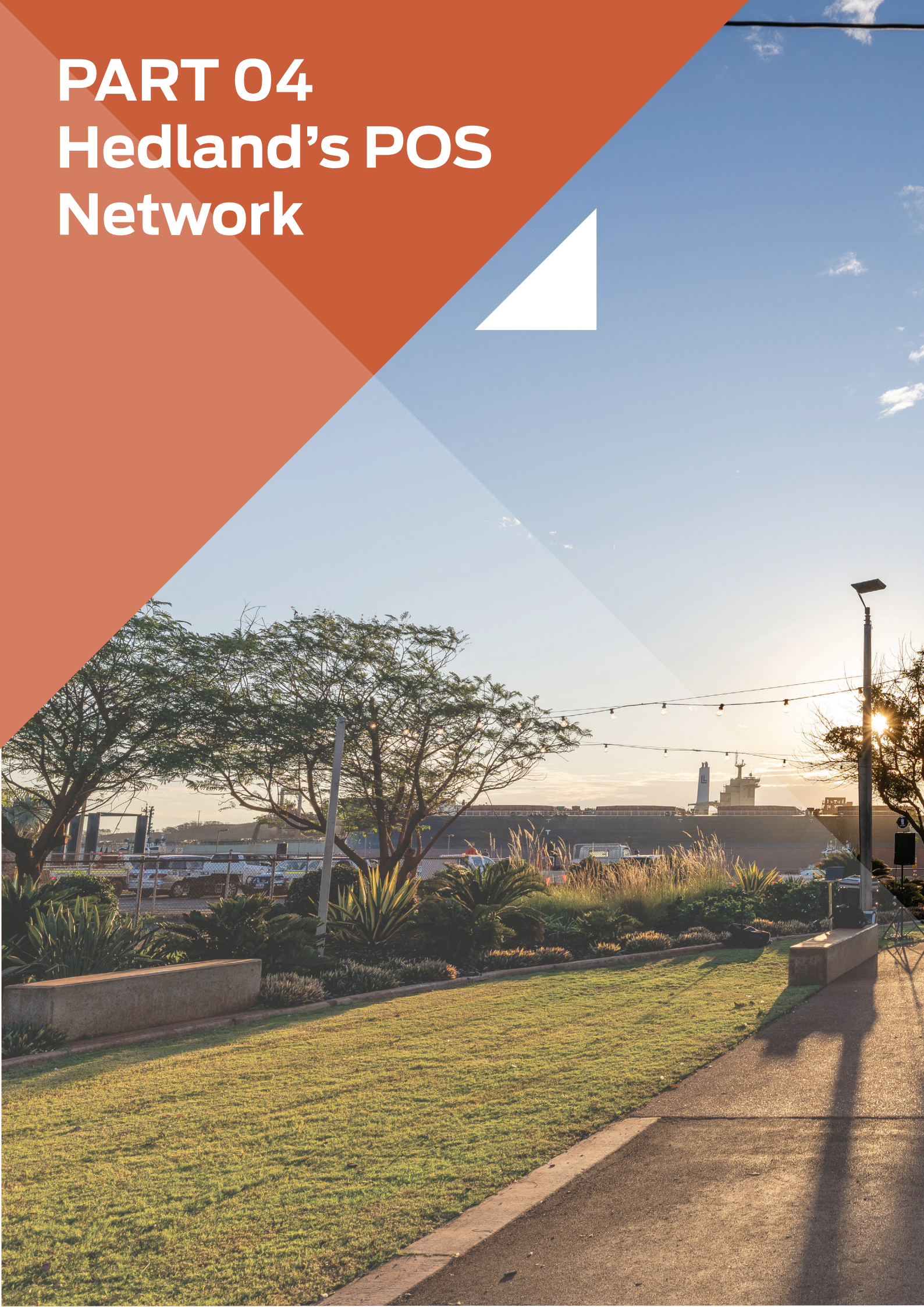
The Public Open Space Strategy and Street Tree Strategy has been developed in response to, and in line with, a number of the The Town's Key Guiding Documents. These documents provide the necessary strategic context and will ultimately be used to help to achieve the goals set within the strategy.





# PART 04

## Hedland's POS Network









# The Town's POS Framework

## POS provision within the Town of Port Hedland aligns with the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries POS Classification Framework

It utilises their two-tier approach which considers both the functions and the hierarchy classification as part of the POS network. This approach places greater emphasis on the role or function of the open space and streamlines the POS classifications to inform how we plan and resource.

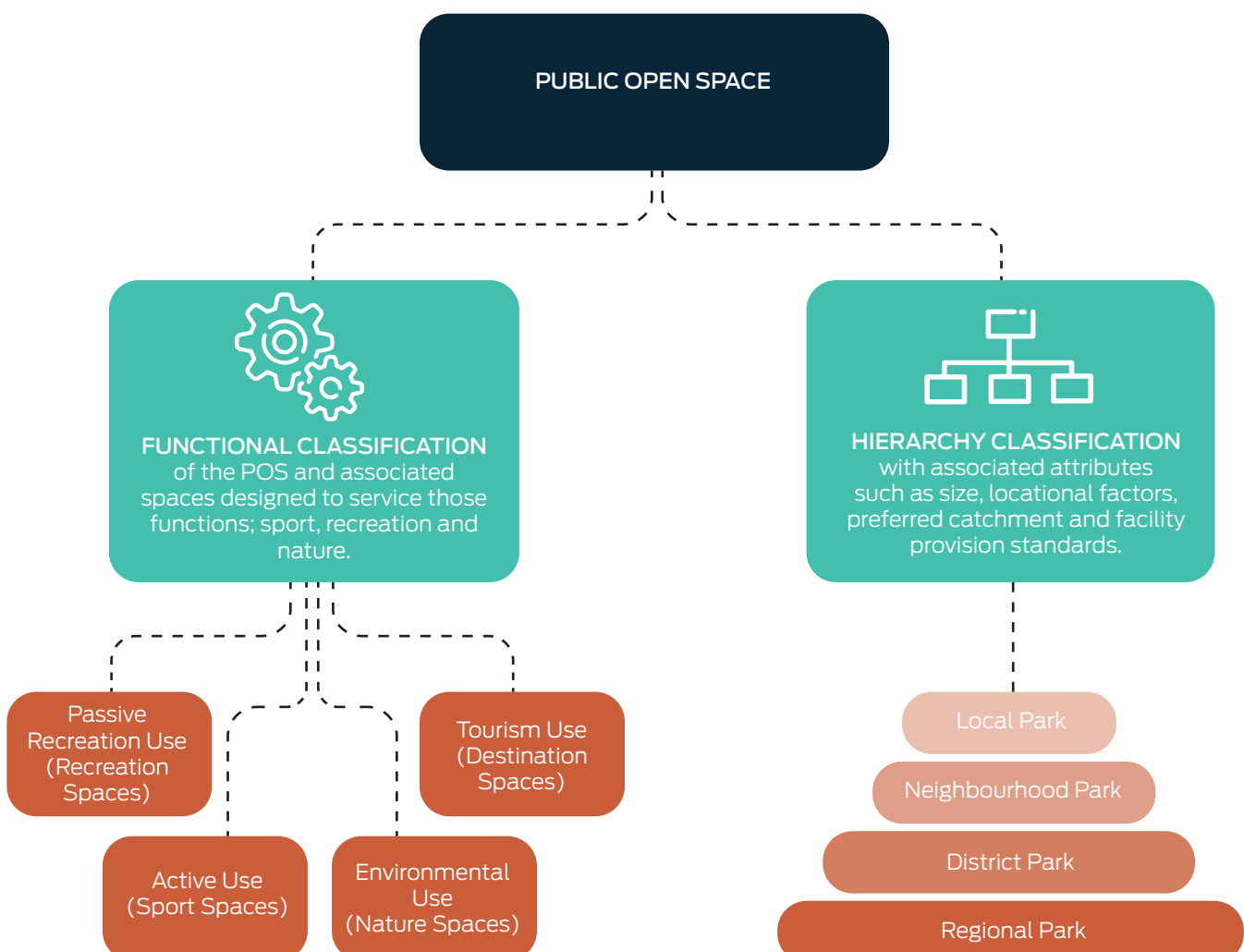
### Functional Classification

The POS functions are the primary use and expected activities undertaken within POS. There are four primary function spaces: Recreation, Sport, Nature and Destination. A single POS may serve more than one function depending on its attributes.

### Hierarchy Classification

The classification of POS is based on several key factors, including size, main purpose, the activities they support and infrastructure they contain, how many people they serve, and how easily accessible they are. One of the most noticeable differences between the four types of POS is their size.

The following pages provide greater detail on the functions and classification hierarchy of POS.





# Functional Classifications

## Passive Recreation Use (Recreation spaces)

Purpose	Recreation spaces provide a setting for informal play and physical activity, relaxation and social interaction
Description	Recreation spaces enhance physical and mental health through activity that provides relaxation, amusement or stimulation. Recreation spaces can be accessed by all to play, socialise, exercise, celebrate or participate in other activities that provide personal satisfaction or intrinsic reward. Recreation space includes gardens and open parklands, community gardens, corridor links, amenity spaces (eg, picnic areas), community use facilities (eg, barbecues, skate plazas), civic commons or squares.

## Active Use (Sport Spaces)

Purpose	Sport spaces provide a setting for formal structured sporting activities.
Description	Sport spaces provide a venue for formal structured sporting activities such as team competitions, physical skill development and training. Sport spaces are designed to accommodate playing surfaces, buffer zones and infrastructure requirements of specific or general sporting activity. Players and spectators attend with the express purpose of engaging in organised sporting activity, training or competition; or watching the game. Most sport spaces can also be accessed by community members for informal sport and recreational purposes.

## Environmental Use (Nature Spaces)

Purpose	Nature spaces provide a setting where people can enjoy nearby nature while protecting local biodiversity and natural area values.
Description	Nature spaces provide opportunity for low-impact recreational activities such as walking, cycling, picnicking, playing, watching or exploring natural features. They are commonly linked/integrated with recreational spaces. Nature spaces may include bushland, coastal areas, wetlands and riparian habitats, and geological and natural features. Sites are managed to enable recreation access while protecting local ecological and biodiversity values.


## Tourism Use (Destination Spaces)

Purpose	Destination spaces offer natural, cultural, recreational, or heritage experiences for visitors and locals.
Description	Destination spaces are a publicly accessible areas designed to attract visitors and locals. These spaces are strategically located and curated to enhance the visitor economy while ensuring environmental and community benefits. They may include coastal foreshores, national parks, heritage precincts, cultural landscapes, scenic lookouts, and vibrant urban squares.



# Hierarchy Classifications

Local Open Space



Size  
**<1ha**

Walking Catchment  
**200m**

Canopy Cover /  
Greening Goals  
**High**

Function  
**Recreation**

Level of Service  
**Low**

Elements Estate Park

Local Open Spaces are typically small parklands designed to meet the everyday recreational needs of nearby residents. These spaces support activities such as children’s play, dog walking, and casual relaxation, with their primary function being informal recreation. Some may also incorporate small areas of natural or landscaped vegetation to enhance amenity and biodiversity.

Located within neighbourhood settings, local open spaces often include natural shade, open grassed areas, and basic amenities such as bench seating, rubbish bins, path connections, and local-level playgrounds. Informal recreational features—like half courts or nature play elements—may also be included to create vibrant and engaging community spaces.

These parks are intended for access primarily on foot, servicing a walkable catchment of approximately 300–400 metres (roughly a 5 to 10-minute walk). Typically used during daylight hours, local spaces play a vital role in providing green relief—especially in higher-density areas with limited private outdoor space. They help break up the urban landscape, foster a sense of local identity, and support personal-level social interaction within the community.

## General Amenity Requirements

-  Turf

 Shade – Natural

 Irrigation

 Shade – Built

 Seating

 Street Parking

 Picnic Tables

 Bicycle Racks

 Drink Fountain

 Standard Lighting

 Paths

 Playground

 Bins

 Pet Facilities

The general amenity requirements are intended to guide the design of new and upgraded open spaces. Not all listed features are required for every site—amenity should be tailored to local context and community needs.



## Neighbourhood Open Space



Yikara Park



















Size	Catchment	Canopy Cover / Greening Goals
<b>1ha - 5ha</b>	<b>400m</b>	<b>Medium-High</b>
Function	Level of Service	
<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Low-Medium</b>	

Neighbourhood Open Spaces serve as key recreational and social hubs within a community, drawing residents from the surrounding area with their diverse features and opportunities for interaction. These spaces help foster a sense of place and community identity, and may also incorporate elements that protect and showcase natural values, such as small bushland areas, wetlands, or watercourses.

Typically larger than local parks, neighbourhood spaces accommodate a broad range of informal recreational activities, including playgrounds, dog walking, cycling, skating or scooting, picnics, and informal ball games. As a result, they often include more extensive infrastructure such as shade structures, seating, BBQs, and multipurpose activity zones.

Neighbourhood spaces generally serve a walkable catchment of approximately 800 metres and are designed to support longer visits by family and community groups. These spaces are often located near cafés, kiosks, or community hubs, and are accessible by walking, public transport, or limited on-site car parking.

### General Amenity Requirements

 Turf	 Bins	 Dog Exercise Area
 Irrigation	 Shade – Natural	 Pet Facilities
 Seating	 Shade – Built	
 Picnic Tables	 Street Parking	
 Public Toilets	 Bicycle Racks	
 BBQ	 Standard Lighting	
 Drink Fountain	 Three phase Power	
 Paths	 Playground	



## District Open Space



**South Hedland Skate Park**

Size  
**5ha - 20ha**

Catchment  
**800m**

Canopy Cover /  
Greening Goals

**Medium**

Function  
**Recreation/  
Sport**

Level of Service  
**Medium-High**

District Open Spaces are primarily designed to accommodate organised formal sport, often supporting multiple sporting codes and clubs. While their core function is active recreation, these spaces may also include surrounding areas for informal use, such as walking, spectating, and passive recreation. Natural elements are generally limited, with landscaping often focused on large, mature trees that provide shade and visual amenity.

District spaces serve a broad catchment, attracting participants and spectators from across the wider community. They are frequently used by nearby schools for sport and events, and some facilities have the capacity to host competitions or community functions. Due to their scale and functionality, district spaces require substantial infrastructure, including fields, lighting, change rooms, spectator seating, and maintenance programs to meet formal sporting standards.

These spaces offer a valuable visual and recreational break in the urban landscape, especially when located along major roads or entry corridors. They are typically accessible by walking, public transport, and car, and are designed to support simultaneous high-volume use by a wide range of user groups.

### General Amenity Requirements



Turf



Bins



Sports Lighting



Irrigation



Shade –  
Natural



Standard  
Lighting



Seating



Shade – Built



Event  
Infrastructure



Picnic Tables



Pavilion



Three Phase  
Power



Public Toilets



On Site Parking



Mobile Food  
Vendor Zones



BBQ



Street Parking



10+ Play  
Elements



Drink Fountain



Bicycle Racks



Dog Exercise  
Area



Paths



Sportsground +  
Infrastructure



Pet facilities



## Regional Park



Size  
**Variable**

Catchment  
**Residents + broader  
Pilbara Region**

Canopy Cover /  
Greening Goals

**Low-Medium**

Function  
**Recreation/  
Nature/Sport**

Level of Service

**High**

### South Hedland Integrated Sports Hub

Regional Open Spaces are large, multifunctional areas that accommodate a mix of organised sport, informal recreation, and significant natural or conservation spaces. These areas may include key environmental features such as water bodies, bushland, or coastal landscapes, and often play a dual role in supporting both active and passive recreation.

Serving multiple geographic or social regions, regional spaces attract visitors from across the Town and beyond, while also meeting the everyday needs of local residents. Given their broad catchment, good access to parking, public transport, and major road networks is essential to support high levels of use.

Due to their scale, regional spaces are capable of supporting the highest level of simultaneous use, with facilities for organised sport, community events, social gatherings, and nature-based activities. These spaces are designed for extended hours of use, accommodating daytime recreation as well as evening sporting fixtures, cultural events, and other programmed community activities.

### General Amenity Requirements



Turf



Bins



Sports Lighting



Irrigation



Shade –  
Natural



Standard  
Lighting



Seating



Shade – Built



Event  
Infrastructure



Picnic Tables



Pavilion



Three Phase  
Power



Public Toilets



On Site Parking



Mobile Food  
Vendor Zones



BBQ



Street Parking



10+ Play  
Elements



Drink Fountain



Bicycle Racks



Dog Exercise  
Area



Paths



Sportsground +  
Infrastructure



Pet facilities



# Other Components of POS

## Informal Green Space (IGS)

Informal Green Space (IGS) refers to areas of vegetation within an urban environment that are not formally recognised, managed, or protected by municipal authorities. Unlike formal green spaces, such as parks and recreational areas, IGS includes a variety of natural or semi-natural areas that may lack official designation or maintenance. These can consist of brownfields, unused industrial land, spaces along railways, abandoned lots, home gardens, and other unplanned green areas.

Informal green spaces in Hedland typically includes:



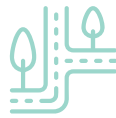
COASTAL +  
MANGROVE  
AREAS



VACANT LOTS +  
BROWNFIELDS



NATURAL  
BUSHLAND



STREETS +  
VERGES



DRAINAGE  
CORRIDORS



COMMUNITY  
+ RESIDENTIAL  
GARDENS

### Benefits of IGS

#### Increased Accessibility and Variety

Including IGS in a public open space network can provide residents with a wider range of accessible natural areas. This variety can cater to diverse preferences and needs, offering quieter, less structured environments alongside more formal parks.

#### Cost-Effectiveness

Utilising IGS can be a more cost-effective way to increase green space availability, as they may require less intensive management and investment compared to developing new formal parks.

#### Cultural and Social Value

These spaces can hold cultural significance and provide opportunities for social interaction, recreation, and relaxation in an informal setting.

#### Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

IGS often host diverse plant and animal species, contributing to urban biodiversity. They can provide crucial ecosystem services such as air purification, temperature regulation, and stormwater management.

#### Community Engagement and Stewardship

IGS can encourage community involvement, as local residents may take an active role in maintaining and using these spaces, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.



# Play Facilities

## Different Playground Types in Hedland

Play facilities in Hedland are highly used and valued spaces. The existing open spaces provide a range of play experiences and opportunities, these have been defined below.



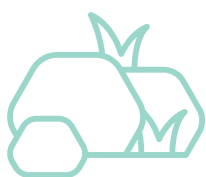
### Traditional

A play space designed specifically for children aged 0–12 years, integrating structured play equipment and natural elements to support physical activity, social interaction, exploration, and imaginative play suitable for this age group.



### Youth

Refers to designated play areas specifically designed for teenagers aged 13–18, incorporating structured equipment and formal activity spaces tailored to support active recreation, physical engagement, and social interaction appropriate to this age group.



### Imaginative

Play environment designed with natural elements, artistic installations, or constructed features that invite open-ended, non-prescriptive play, stimulating creativity, exploration, and imaginative interactions.



### Fitness

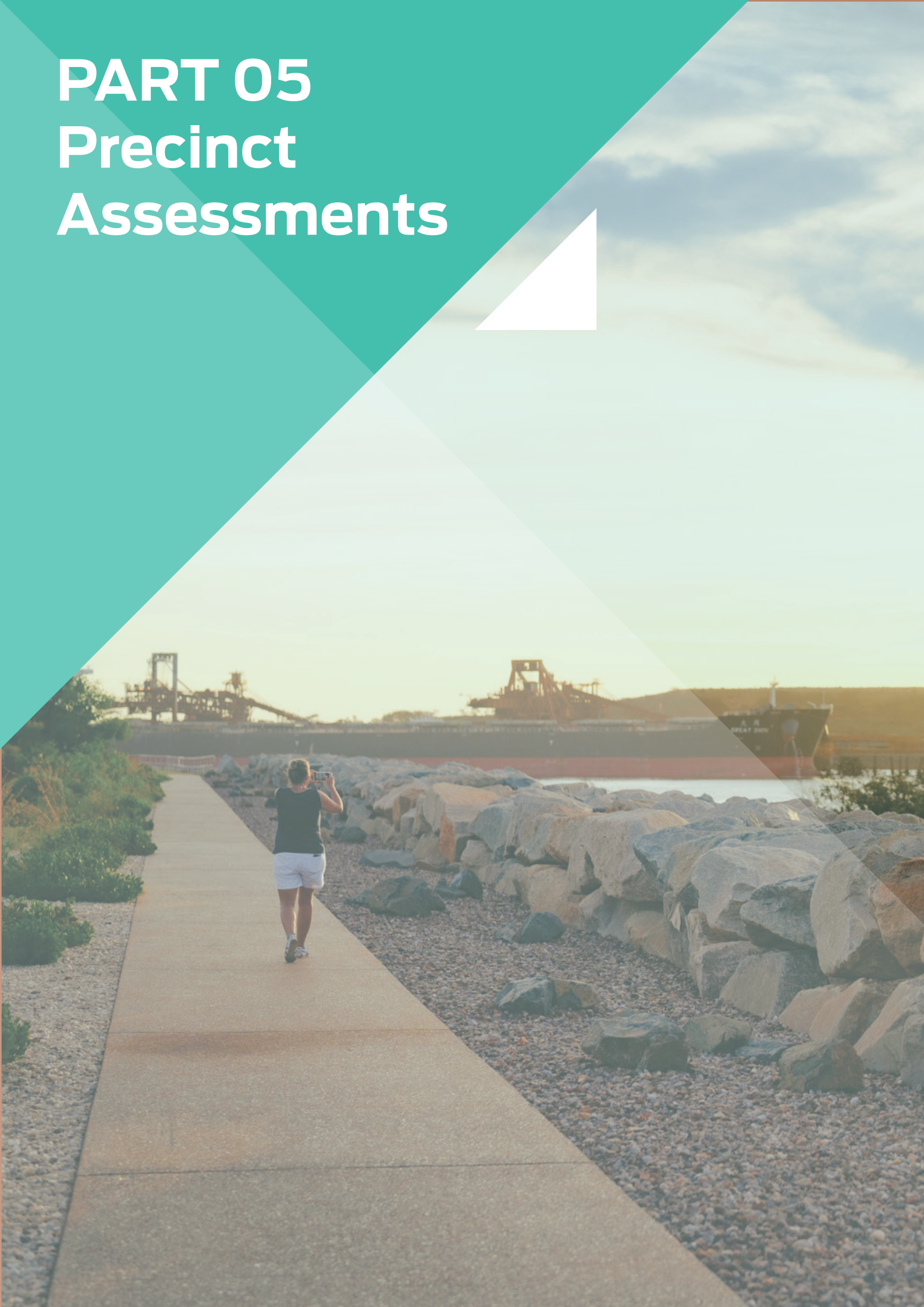
Structured or intentionally designed spaces featuring specialised equipment and designated areas that encourage physical movement, active participation for the enhancement of overall health and fitness outcomes.



# PART 05

## Precinct

### Assessments









# Our Assessment Approach

Tailoring the assessment approach to the unique characteristics and needs of the Town of Port Hedland will be the key to its success.

## POS Methodology

The assessment process outlined below aims to balance current legislative requirements with the specific needs of the local community. Integrity is achieved through a deeper understanding of how the existing public open POS network is accessed and experienced by residents. The assessment is built around three key components:

- **POS Audit** (Refer to Appendix D)  
A detailed evaluation of the quality and amenity of existing open spaces, focusing on aesthetics, functionality, safety, and supporting infrastructure. This includes an audit of community infrastructure in accordance with the Guidelines for Western Australian Community Infrastructure (2020).
- **Accessibility Analysis**  
A walkable catchment analysis assessing how easily residents can access open space from surrounding neighbourhoods, supported by an evaluation of the quality and connectivity of the local street network.
- **POS Provision Analysis**  
A comparison of POS provision against benchmarks from other Pilbara towns, alongside a quantitative analysis that considers both the legislated percentage of POS (based on Gross Subdivisible Area) and a contextualised assessment that reflects how open space is actually used within the local setting.

### Legislated Assessment

Applies to areas where the primary purpose of the space is sport, recreation or nature and typically the land has been set aside for these purposes.

It does not include:

- Nature reserves
- Foreshore reserves
- Privately owned open space
- Leased areas or facilities requiring paid entry and/or membership
- Spaces where statutory responsibility lies with the state government

### Contextualised Assessment

Includes all areas that offer community value as green spaces and where the primary purpose of the space is sport, recreation or nature.

This includes foreshore reserves and school ovals.

It does not include:

- Leased areas
- Facilities requiring paid entry
- Facilities requiring membership







# Comparative Analysis - Pilbara Benchmarking

In collaboration with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), an assessment of POS provision in Port Hedland and South Hedland was undertaken, with additional benchmarking against comparable towns in the Pilbara region to better understand POS provision within a similar regional and climatic context. In reading the comparison below, its important to note the following: It is important to note, however, that making direct comparisons can be difficult due to inconsistencies in local planning schemes and the application of the POS zone. In this case teh following is noted:

- This methodology was aligned with Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) policy.
- Some local planning schemes, particularly older ones, may classify land as POS even when it serves other primary functions, such as drainage (as seen in Karratha).
- To ensure consistency and comparability across local governments, each area's Gross Subdivisible Area (GSA) was calculated using a standardised list of included and excluded zones.
- Although total recreation and conservation areas were documented, they were excluded from POS percentage calculations.
- Study areas were based on ABS Urban Centre Statistical Areas to maintain consistency, although this may differ from suburb-based assessments commonly used in metropolitan areas.

Port Hedland		
	Gross Area (ha)	Net Area (easements deducted) (ha)
Environmental Conservation Area (deducted from Gross Subdivisible Area)	1068	1067
POS area (public open space reserve only)	86	83
Total Recreation/Conservation Reserve Area	1179	1176
Gross Subdivisible Area (only residential type land uses)	255	254
POS % of Gross Subdivisible Area	33.7%	32.9%

South Hedland		
	Gross Area (ha)	Net Area (easements deducted) (ha)
Environmental Conservation Area (deducted from Gross Subdivisible Area)	534	527
POS area (public open space reserve only)	36.3	36.1
Total Recreation/Conservation Reserve Area	810	803
Gross Subdivisible Area (only residential type land uses)	819	807
POS % of Gross Subdivisible Area	4.4%	4.5%

Town	POS % of Gross Subdivisible Area
Broome	7.4%
Karratha	76.4%
Newman	44.6%
Tom Price	33.9%
Average	40.6%



# Application of the percentage standard for POS in Hedland

Based on current POS percentages, both Port Hedland and South Hedland exceed the 10% minimum requirement and sit just below the average POS percentage observed across the broader Pilbara region. While there is no universally mandated standard for open space per capita, the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends a minimum of 9 m<sup>2</sup> per person in urban areas, with various planning guidelines suggesting a range of 15 to 50 m<sup>2</sup> per person. When considering both current and projected future provision (assuming no additional open space is developed), Port Hedland and South Hedland continue to meet or exceed these benchmarks. Although open space per person is only one metric in assessing POS adequacy, these figures reinforce the importance of aligning future planning outcomes with demonstrated community needs rather than focusing solely on quantity.

		Port Hedland	South Hedland
<b>Current Provision</b>  <small>(ABS Census 2021)</small>	Population	4,081	11,046
	m <sup>2</sup> /person	267	250
	<small>Current Provision Benchmark</small>		
<b>Base Forecast</b>  <b>2046</b>  <small>(Remplan 2024)</small>	Population	3,989 (-92)	17,232 (+6,186)
	m <sup>2</sup> /person	273	160
	Change in POS per person (m <sup>2</sup> )	+6	-90
<b>Growth Forecast</b>  <b>2046</b>  <small>(Remplan 2024)</small>	Population	4,663 (+582)	18,667 (+4,639)
	m <sup>2</sup> /person	234	148
	Change in POS per person (m <sup>2</sup> )	-33	-102





# Audit of Community Infrastructure

To better inform the POS assessment, a high level social infrastructure assessment has been undertaken for all amenities relevant to POS. This assessment is in keeping with the guidelines from Parks and Leisure Australia, which set the standards for provision across Western Australia. It is noted that this form of assessment is based on population numbers, and does not relate to the amount of land available.

Generally speaking, this assessment finds that South Hedland has a much greater need for investment in social infrastructure than Port Hedland, both now and in the future. Most notably, South Hedland has a much more immediate need for sporting facilities, local parks and neighbourhood playgrounds.

When prioritising investment in the Town’s open spaces, or delivering new spaces as part of redevelopment, the priorities identified in the table below should be considered. These should be supported by community and stakeholder engagement to ensure recreational trends, sporting club needs, and broader community expectations are understood and addressed.

	Population	Play Space				Open Space			
		Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional	Local	Neighbourhood	District	Regional
Port Hedland Townsite Needs Assessment									
Current Supply		1	4	1	1	8	6	2	2
McGregor Street Sports Precinct					1				
Current Need	4,081	NA	2	<1	<1	4	1	<1	<1
2046 Base Forecast Need*	3,989	NA	2	<1	<1	4	1	<1	<1
2046Growth Forecast Need*	4,633	NA	2	1	<1	5	1	<1	<1
South Hedland Townsite Needs Assessment									
Current Supply		3	3	1	2	6	7	3	2
South Hedland Integrated Sports Hub			2						
Current Need	11,046	NA	6	1	<1	11	2	1	<1
2046 Base Forecast Need*	17,232	NA	9	2	<1	17	3	1	<1
2046 Growth Forecast Need*	18,667	NA	9	2	<1	19	4	1	<1

\*Source: Remplan, 2024



Sports Space	AFL		Rugby/ Union League	Diamond Pitch Sports	Soccer Pitch	Cricket Oval	Athletics	Hockey
	Senior	Junior						
2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
					4	1		
1	1	1	<1	<1	1	1	<1	1-3
1	1	1	<1	<1	1	1	<1	
1	1	1	<1	<1	1	1	<1	
2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
4			5	3	3		1	
2	2	2	<1	1	2	2	<1	1-3
4	2	4	<1	1	3	3	<1	
4	3	4	1	2	3	3	<1	

## Assumed Supply Ratios

(Source: Parks+ Leisure Australia WA, 2020)

### Play Spaces

- Local - Nil provided
- Neighbourhood - 1:2,000
- District - 1:8,000 to 10,000
- Regional - 1:50,000

### Public Open Spaces

- Local - 1:1,000
- Neighbourhood - 1:5,000
- District - 1:15,000 to 25,000
- Regional - 1:250,000

Sports Space (1:4,000 to 5,000), to include at least one of the following:

- AFL
  - Senior - 1:6,000 to 8,000
  - Junior - 1:1,500 to 8,000
- Rugby Union/League
  - 1:20,000 to 50,000
- Diamond Pitch
  - 1:10,000 to 14,000
- Soccer Pitch
  - 1:4,800 to 6,600
- Cricket Oval
  - 1:5,500 to 8,000
- Athletics
  - 1:250,000
- Hockey
  - 2km Catchment - 1-3 Pitches
  - 10km Catchment - 4+ Pitches



## Port Hedland Assessment

The Port Hedland precinct encompasses the older, more industrial part of the Town, located along the coast with close proximity to the significant port facilities that drive much of the Town's economy. The suburb is characterised by its proximity to the coast, with some stunning ocean views, but it also faces the challenges of a harsh, arid climate and industrial activity.

Key features of Port Hedland include:

- Proximity to the coast and foreshore reserves
- Its built environment is more compact and features a mix of older residential areas, industrial sites, and historic buildings.
- Industrial infrastructure and sites that demand unique solutions.

The Port Hedland precinct has...



Direct Beach Access



Heritage Built Form



Port + Industrial Infrastructure

# 17

Open Spaces

**11** Local Parks

**3** Neighbourhood Parks

**1** District Park

**1** Regional Park

**1** Foreshore Reserve



One off Leash Dog Park



The LEAF Project Area



Six Play Spaces



## Pet Amenities

- On leash/Some pet facilities
- Off leash/Dedicated Pet Space

## Play Facilities

- F Fitness
- I Interpretative
- Y Traditional Youth
- T Traditional

# POS in the Port Hedland Precinct

	POS Name	Legislated	Contextualised	Role	Function	Hierarchy	Play	Public Toilet	Pet Amenities	Canopy Cover (%)
①	Courthouse Gardens		●	POS	Passive	Local				67
②	Captain Bert Madigan Park		●	Foreshore	Passive	Local		●		0
③	Cemetery Beach Park		●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood	● I ● T	●	●	13
④	Civic Centre Gardens	●	●	POS	Passive	Local		●		27
⑤	Colin Matheson Oval	●	●	POS	Active	District	● T	●	●	6
⑥	Don Rhodes Mining Museum	●	●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood				14
⑦	Dowding Walk Trails		●	Foreshore	Environmental	Local		●		29
⑧	Glass Lane Gardens		●	POS	Passive	Local		●		88
⑨	Koombana Lookout	●	●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood				13
⑩	Lions Park		●	POS	Passive	Local				9
⑪	Marapikurrinya Park		●	Foreshore	Passive	Local	● T	●		11
⑫	McGregor Street Reserve	●	●	POS	Active	Regional	● Y	●	●	1
⑬	Pretty Pool Park		●	Foreshore	Passive	Local	● T	●		30
⑭	Strike (Leap) Park		●	POS	Passive	Local		●		41
⑮	Yikara Park	●	●	POS	Passive	Local				32
⑯	Sutherland Street Nodes		●	Foreshore	Passive	Local				0.1
⑰	Spoilbank Marina		●	POS	Tourism	Foreshore Reserve	● T	●	●	-

# Port Hedland POS Assessment Analysis

The Port Hedland precinct, characterised by its coastal proximity and industrial heritage, is well-supplied with public open spaces, including access to popular foreshore reserves like Cemetery Beach Park. Although these foreshore areas are not traditionally classified under the legislative POS assessment, they play a vital role in community recreation and social interaction. Given the declining residential population in the West End precinct due to the West End Improvement Scheme No. 1 prohibiting residential uses, the focus for future POS planning in Port Hedland emphasises enhancing tourism-oriented and economically supportive spaces. This includes maintaining direct beach access, protecting green cover, and accommodating the area's industrial infrastructure through resilient and adaptable open spaces.

## Assessment Summary

An assessment of POS accessibility in Port Hedland, based on walkable catchments to legislated open space, reveals some notable gaps in coverage. However, when considering the location of existing residential areas, the ongoing depopulation of the West End, and the presence of other recreational open spaces not legislated as POS, the precinct is generally well serviced. This is further reflected in the overall provision of POS, which accounts for 32.9% of the gross subdivisible area—exceeding standard requirements.

Using REMPLAN population forecasts, the community infrastructure audit indicates that Port Hedland is generally well supplied with recreational facilities. The only identified shortfall is the need for one additional junior AFL field to meet the benchmarks established by Parks and Leisure Australia. However, community feedback highlights concerns around the quality, safety, and usability of existing spaces. This presents a valuable opportunity for the precinct to focus on upgrading and enhancing current POS assets to better meet community expectations and improve overall amenity.

Canopy cover across the POS network ranges between 0–15%, with only minor exceptions. This level of coverage falls below community expectations, particularly regarding shade and thermal comfort, highlighting an opportunity to enhance canopy outcomes as part of future open space planning and investment.

## Key Challenges



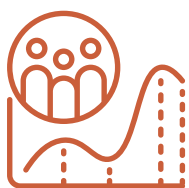
### Foreshore Exclusion from POS Network

Although the foreshore areas, such as Cemetery Beach Park, play a vital recreational role, they are not traditionally counted within POS metrics. This legislative gap fails to capture the community's extensive use of these coastal spaces.



### Low Green Cover in POS

Tree canopy analysis highlights the lack of canopy cover across parks. While a few parks perform well, there is a broad need for increased greenery to improve usability, comfort and mitigate urban heat effects.



### Decreasing Residential Population

Port Hedland is experiencing a decline in its residential population, partly due to the West End Improvement Scheme No. 1 prohibiting residential uses.



### Coastal Erosion Risk

Coastal erosion of the foreshore due to storm surge and wind speed during cyclonic activity is a key risk for open space and infrastructure along the coastal foreshore areas of the precinct.



## Key Opportunities



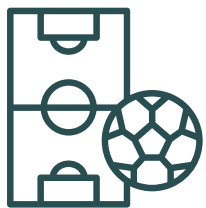
### Increasing Tourism

Developing Port Hedland's West End for commercial, leisure, tourism, and education should include POS that combines heritage, tourism, and local needs. This includes beach front and nature opportunities like Marapikurrinya Park (port views) and Cemetery Beach Park (turtle nesting).



### Improving quality of amenities in POS

Building on the generally good access to POS, opportunity to invest in key areas identified through community engagement such as canopy cover, safety, and usability.



### District and Neighborhood Parks

Improving district-level parks can support organised sports, family activities, and community events, adding diversity to recreational options and encouraging broader community use.



### Green Corridors and Streetscapes

Creating green corridors and streetscapes that link main parks (hubs) with smaller green spaces (spokes) will promote walkability, reduce urban heat, support biodiversity and encourage people to walk and ride outside.



### Coastal Integration

Port Hedland's coastal foreshore areas provide important open spaces that can serve as focal points that connect residents and visitors to the precinct's unique character, fostering local enjoyment and visitor appeal.



### Integrate Existing Masterplans

Review and integrate with the McGregor Street Masterplan.

## Strategic Priorities for Port Hedland

The assessment analysis identifies several strategic priorities for POS in Port Hedland, informing the POS Strategy:



Enhance foreshore and destination spaces for tourism



Expand urban canopy in priority areas



Integrate water sensitive urban design



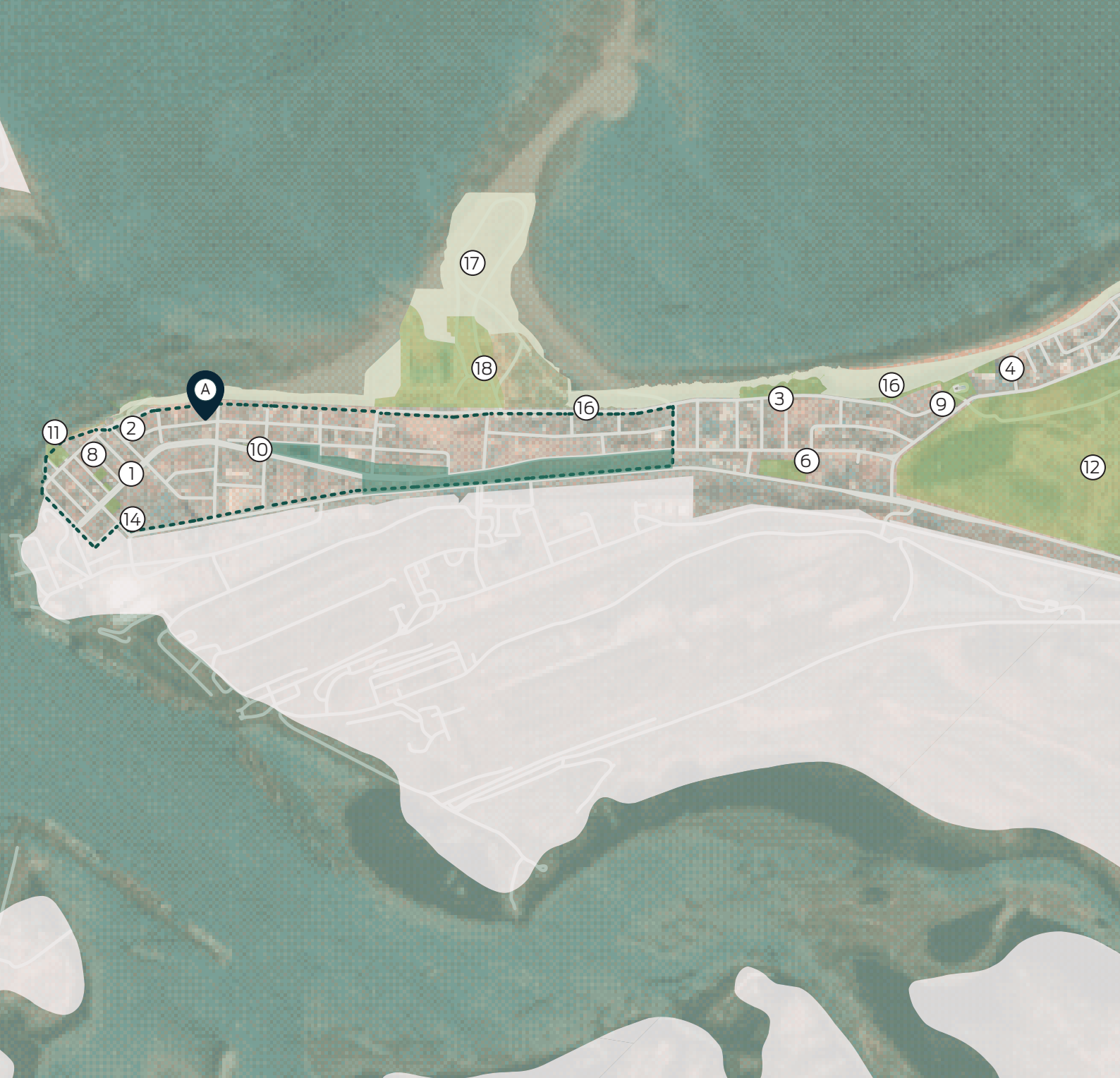
Celebrate Indigenous culture in POS design



Connect the network through green streets and corridors



Improve safety, accessibility and amenities



## Port Hedland Public Open Spaces

- |                             |                              |                           |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ① Courthouse Gardens        | ⑥ Don Rhodes Mining Museum   | ⑪ Marapikurrinya Park     |
| ② Captain Bert Madigan Park | ⑦ Dowding Way Walking Trails | ⑫ McGregor Street Reserve |
| ③ Cemetery Beach Park       | ⑧ Glass Lane Gardens         | ⑬ Pretty Pool             |
| ④ Civic Centre Gardens      | ⑨ Koombana Lookout           | ⑭ Strike (Leap) Park      |
| ⑤ Colin Mathieson Oval      | ⑩ Lions Park                 | ⑮ Yikara Park             |





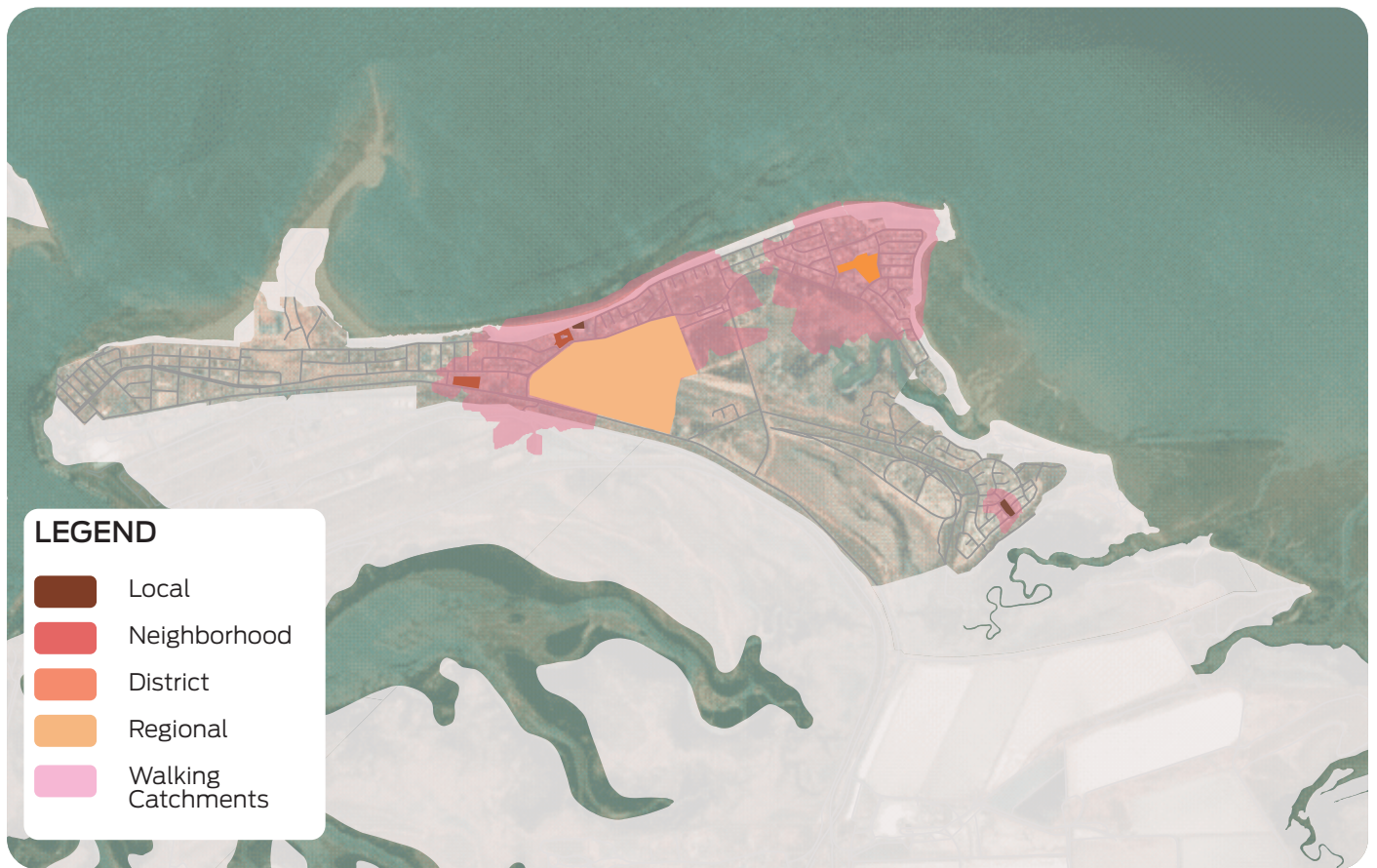
**LEGEND**

- POS
- Leaf Project
- Environmental Conservation Reserve
- Urban Development Area
- Port Hedland West End Improvement Scheme No. 1

- ⑬ Sutherland Street Nodes
- ⑰ Foreshore Reserve
- ⑱ Spoilbank Marina

- A Port Hedland West End Improvement Scheme No. 1
- B Athol Street
- C Former WWTP
- D The Stables
- E Dempster Street
- F Telstra Tower Site

## Legislated Hierarchy Assessment



## Legislated Function Assessment

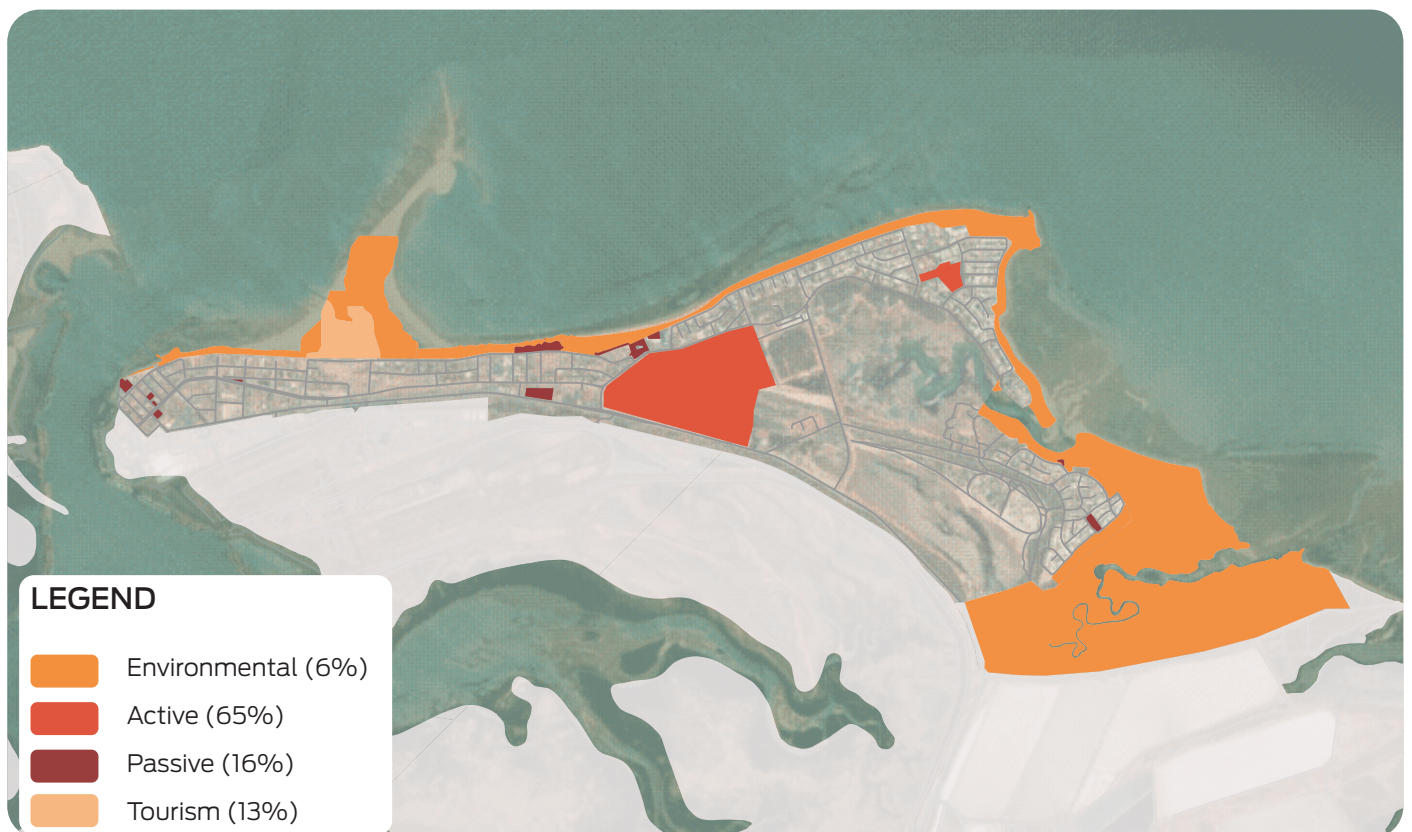




## Contextualised Hierarchy Assessment



## Contextualised Function Assessment





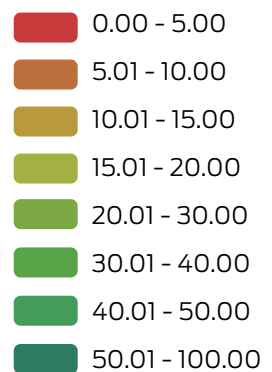
## Port Hedland POS Green Cover Assessment







#### LEGEND CANOPY (%)



#### Increasing levels of Canopy Cover in Port Hedland

- ① Koombana Lookout
- ② Colin Mathieson Oval
- ③ Cemetery Beach Park
- ④ Courthouse Gallery Gardens





## South Hedland Assessment

South Hedland, by contrast, is a more modern suburb developed inland, with a stronger focus on residential areas and community services. South Hedland is designed with a more suburban layout, featuring larger open spaces, parks, and community facilities like schools, shopping centres, and recreation areas.

Key features of South Hedland include:

- It is a planned residential suburban with wide streets and spacious neighbourhoods
- It is the primary hub for community services in the Town.
- Its inland location means that temperatures are higher, and the climate can be harsher.

### The South Hedland precinct has...



Residential focus



Community infrastructure Hub



Inland location

# 22

Open Spaces

8 Local Parks

12 Neighbourhood Parks

1 District Park

1 Regional Park



One off Leash Dog Park



Seven areas to be developed with future POS



Twelve Play Spaces



# POS in the South Hedland Precinct

Pet Amenities      ● On leash/Some pet facilities      ● Off leash/Dedicated Pet Space

Play Facilities      ● F Fitness      ● I Interpretive      ● Y Traditional Youth      ● T Traditional

	POS Name	Legislated	Contextualised	Role	Function	Hierarchy	Play	Public Toilet	Pet Amenities	Canopy Cover (%)
①	Baler Primary School		●	School Oval	Active	Neighbourhood				4
②	Cassia Primary School		●	School Oval	Active	Neighbourhood				4
③	Centenary Park		●	POS	Passive	Local		●	●	16
④	Cyclone George Park	●	●	POS	Passive	Local				10
⑤	Daylesford Park	●	●	POS	Passive	Local	● T	●		33
⑥	Elements Estate	●	●	POS	Passive	Local				8.5
⑦	Forrest Circle	●	●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood	● F			16
⑧	South Hedland Integrated Sport Hub	●	●	POS	Active	Regional	● T			4
⑨	Osprey Village Park		●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood	● T			15
⑩	Koombana Park	●	●	POS	Passive	Local	● T	●	●	36
⑪	Limestone Park	●	●	POS	Passive	Local	● T		●	17
⑫	Marquee Park	●	●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood	● T	●	●	13
⑬	Murdoch Drive Parklets	●	●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood	● T	●		5
⑭	Shay Gap Memorial Park	●	●	POS	Passive	Neighbourhood	● T	●		37
⑮	South Hedland High School Oval		●	School Oval	Active	Neighbourhood		●		8
⑯	South Hedland Primary School Oval		●	School Oval	Active	Neighbourhood	● T	●		56
⑰	South Hedland Skatepark		●	POS	Active	Neighbourhood	● Y		●	6
⑱	Roberts Street	●	●	Future POS	Passive	Local				7
⑲	Harrier Osprey Drain	●	●	POS	Passive	Local				20
⑳	Murdoch Drive Park	●	●	Future POS	Passive	Neighbourhood				2
㉑	Buzzard Street	●	●	Future POS	Passive	Neighbourhood				2
㉒	JD Hardie	●	●	POS	Active	District	● Y			7

# South Hedland POS Assessment Analysis

The POS network in South Hedland plays a critical role in supporting the wellbeing and recreational needs of the community. However, an assessment of POS mapping and classifications reveals significant challenges and opportunities for improvement. With a current imbalance favoring passive spaces, limited active recreational facilities, and low canopy cover, South Hedland's POS network requires strategic enhancements to meet the demands of its residents and the region's harsh climate. By addressing these issues and capitalising on opportunities for additional tree planting, improved POS distribution, and new active spaces, South Hedland can foster a more inclusive, accessible, and resilient open space network that enhances the quality of life for all residents.

## Assessment Summary

The existing open space network in South Hedland is predominantly passive, with no legislated or contextual public open spaces classified as environmental. Accessibility across the area is limited, with gaps in walkable catchments to POS. While some of these gaps are partially addressed by the inclusion of contextual open spaces, and the environmental conservation reserve, overall access is constrained. This is further compounded by the Radburn-style street layout, which negatively impacts connectivity, legibility, and walkability across the open space network.

South Hedland is projected to experience substantial population growth, with an estimated increase of 6,000 to 7,500 residents by 2046. While analysis of open space provision indicates that the area is currently, and will continue to be, well serviced in terms of total POS percentage, there is a clear shortfall in open space-related community infrastructure. This gap highlights the need for targeted and strategic investment to ensure that future provision meets the evolving recreational, social, and functional needs of the growing population.

Canopy cover in South Hedland's public open spaces generally ranges from 0–20%, with limited exceptions. This falls short of community expectations for shade and thermal comfort. Given South Hedland's inland location and exposure to extreme heat, there is a critical need to incorporate climate-resilient design principles, including increased shade cover and tree planting, to improve comfort and usability of public spaces.

## Key Challenges



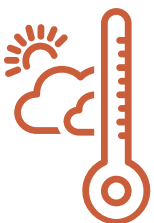
### Underrepresentation of Active Spaces

South Hedland's POS network has a substantial proportion of passive spaces, with limited areas designated for active recreation. This lack of balance restricts opportunities for organised sports and dynamic community activities.



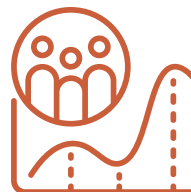
### Low Green Cover in POS

Tree canopy analysis (Refer Figure p. 76) highlights the lack of canopy cover across parks. While a few parks perform well, there is a broad need for increased greenery to improve usability, comfort and mitigate urban heat effects.



### Harsh Climate

South Hedland's inland location subjects it to more extreme temperatures, increasing the need for climate-resilient design and shaded areas in public spaces.



### Uneven Distribution of Open Space

Certain neighborhoods lack sufficient access to POS within a reasonable walking distance, which impacts equitable access to recreational opportunities and green spaces.



## Key Opportunities



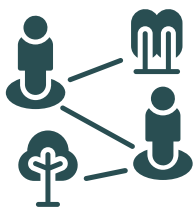
### Enhanced Tree Planting and Shading Initiatives

Implementing extensive tree planting and increasing shaded areas in parks and along streets can improve comfort, reduce urban heat, and make POS more accessible year-round.



### Rebalancing POS Functions

Introducing environmental and more active recreational spaces, such as sports fields and playgrounds, can diversify the recreational options available to residents and encourage community engagement and fitness.



### Connecting Green Corridors

Developing green corridors between key parks and residential areas will improve access, promote walkability, and provide shaded pathways, making the POS network more cohesive and integrated.



### Future Development Opportunities

Several designated areas for future POS development present opportunities to address gaps in POS distribution, allowing for the creation of a more equitable network of parks and recreational spaces across South Hedland.

## Strategic Priorities for South Hedland

The assessment analysis identifies several strategic priorities for POS in South Hedland, informing the POS Strategy:



Develop new POS in areas of new development



Increase shade and cooling in POS



Diversify recreation facilities and playgrounds



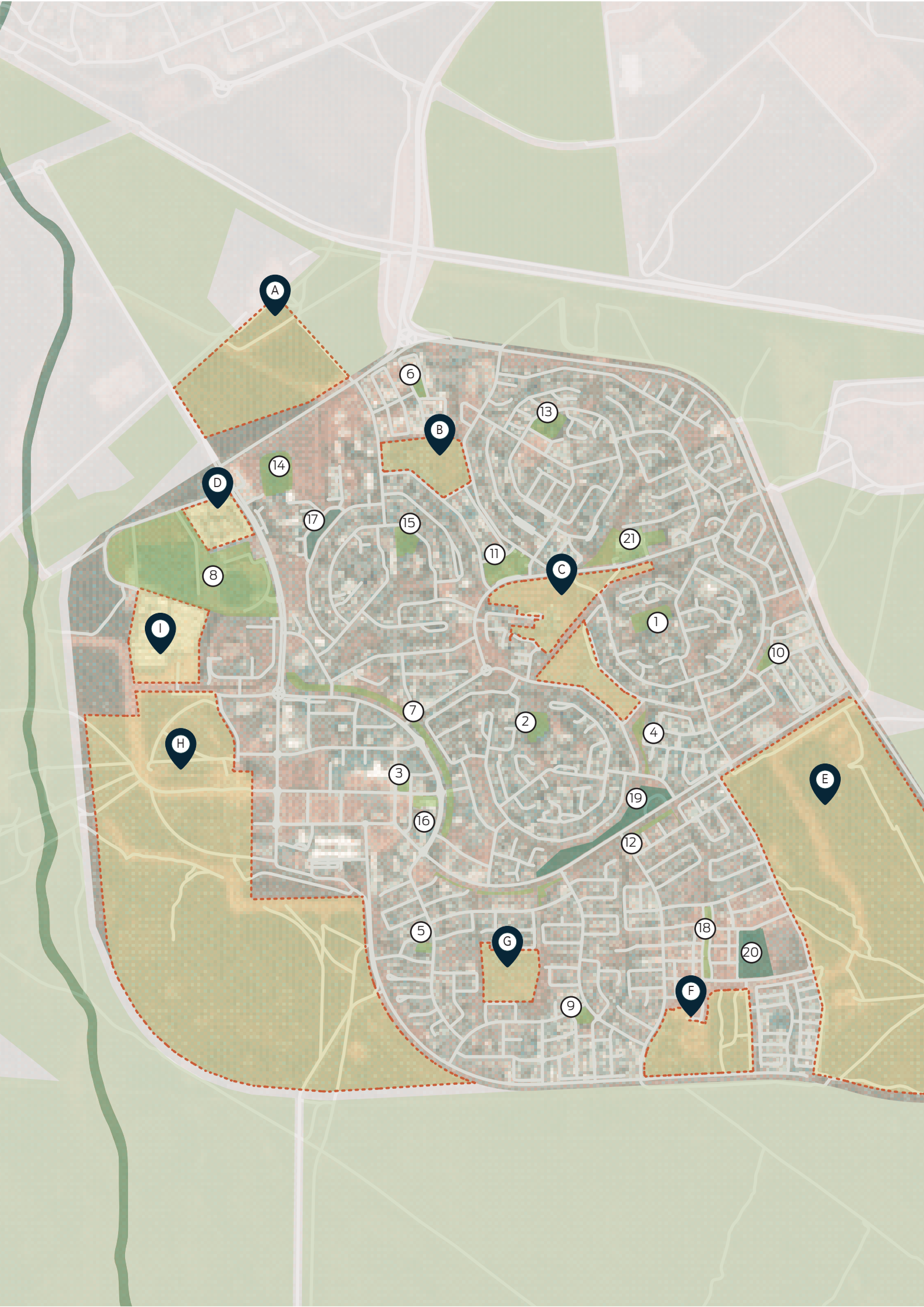
Leverage drainage corridors as community assets



Engage communities in co-design and stewardship



Implement the hub and spoke model to improve POS connectivity



A

6

B

13

14

D

17

15

11

21

8

I

C

1

10

7

2

4

H

3

16

19

E

5

G

18

20

9

F





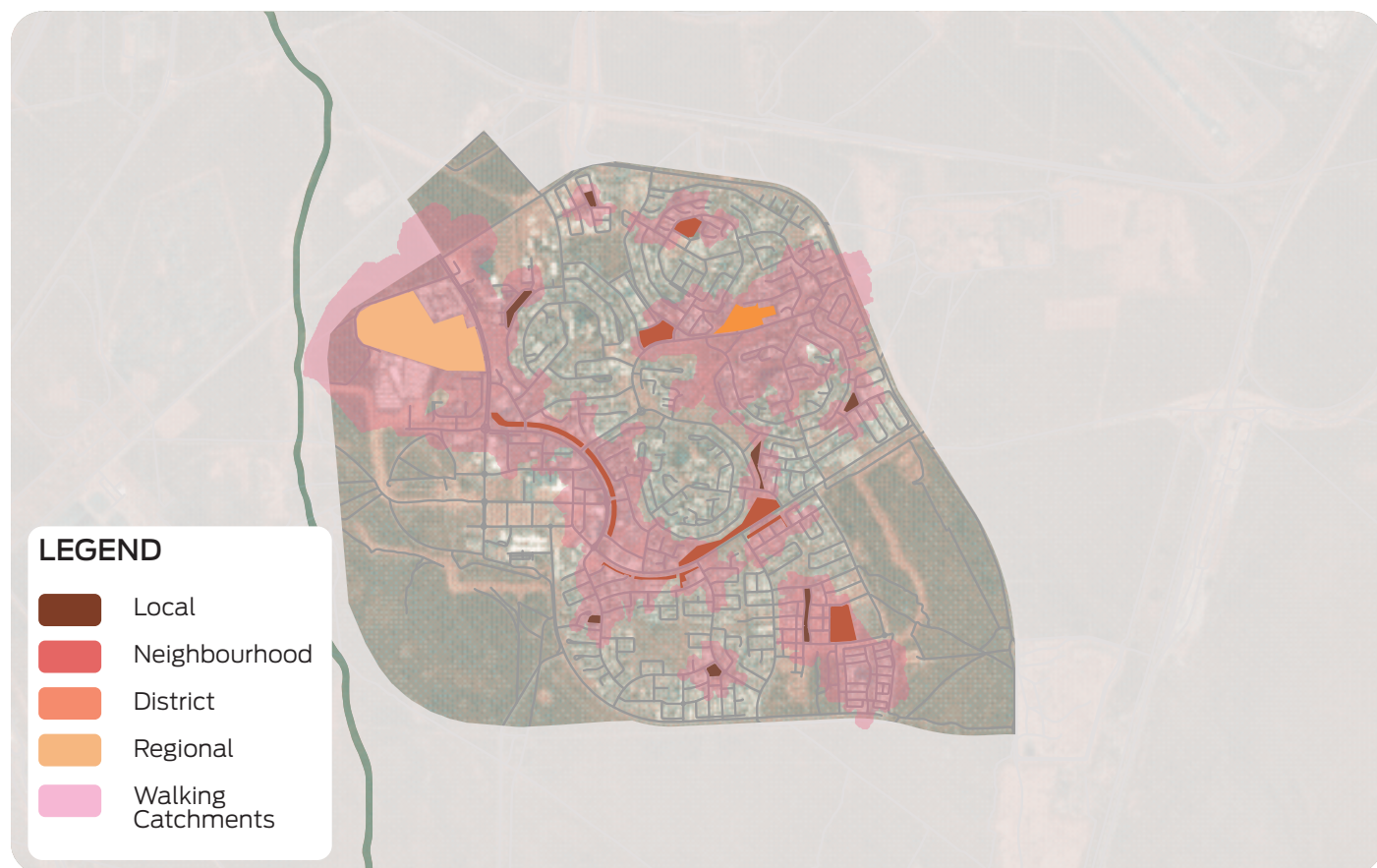
#### LEGEND

-  POS
-  Future POS
-  Environmental Conservation Reserve
-  Urban Development Area

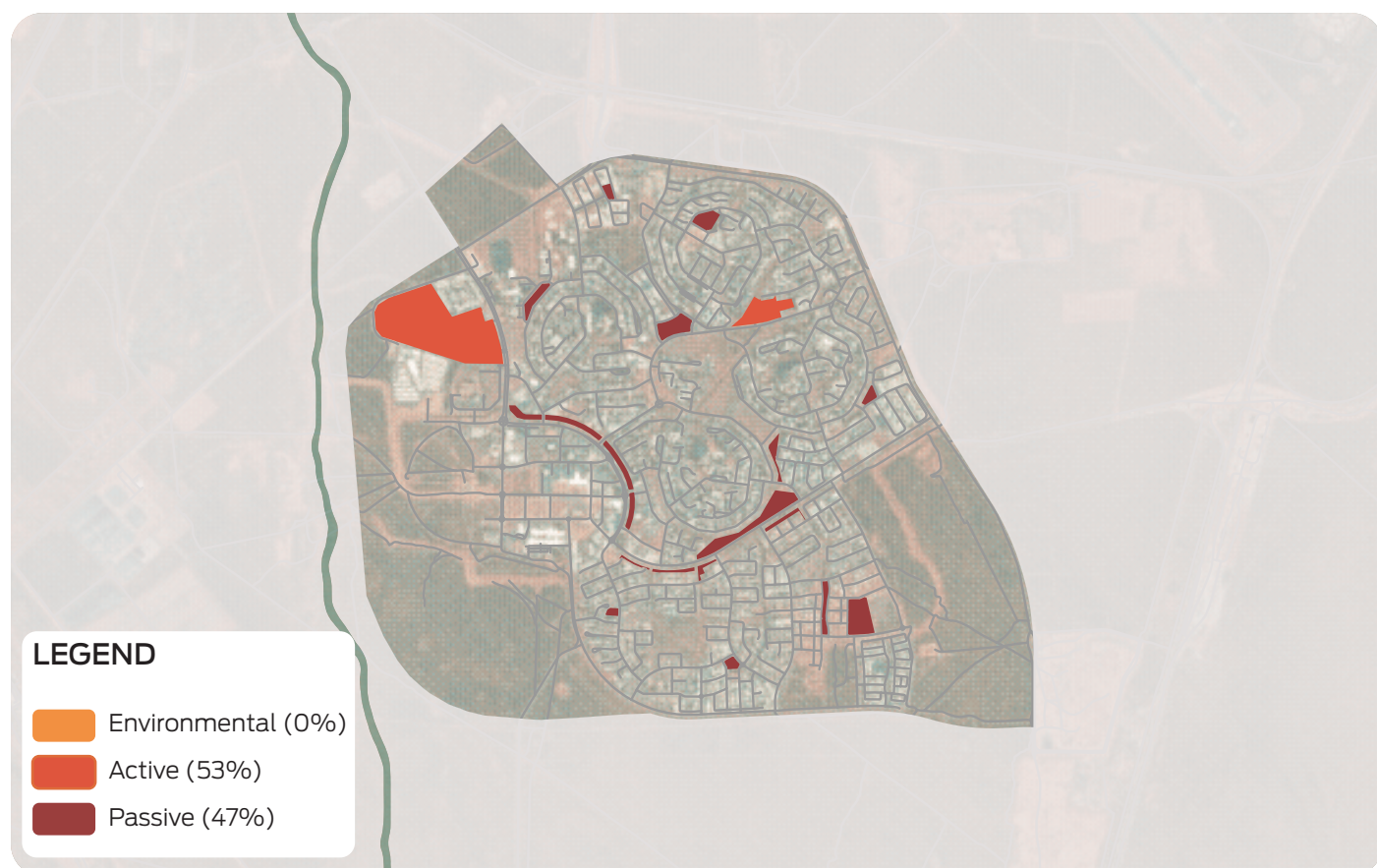
## Public Open Spaces in South Hedland

- ① Baler Primary School
- ② Cassia Primary School
- ③ Centenary Park
- ④ Cyclone George Park
- ⑤ Daylesford Park
- ⑥ Elements Estate
- ⑦ Forrest Circle
- ⑧ South Hedland Integrated Sporting Hub (SHISH)
- ⑨ Koombana Park
- ⑩ Limestone Park
- ⑪ Marquee Park
- ⑫ Murdoch Drive Parklets
- ⑬ Shay Gap Memorial Park
- ⑭ South Hedland High School Oval
- ⑮ South Hedland Primary School Oval
- ⑯ South Hedland Skatepark
- ⑰ Roberts Street
- ⑱ Harrier Osprey Drain
- ⑲ Murdoch Drive Park
- ⑳ Buzzard Street
- ㉑ JD Hardie
- A Hamilton Road
- B Pundulmurra
- C Trumpet Way
- D Club Hamilton
- E Osprey Rural
- F Osprey West
- G Koombana
- H Western Edge
- I Forrest Circle

## Legislated Hierarchy Assessment

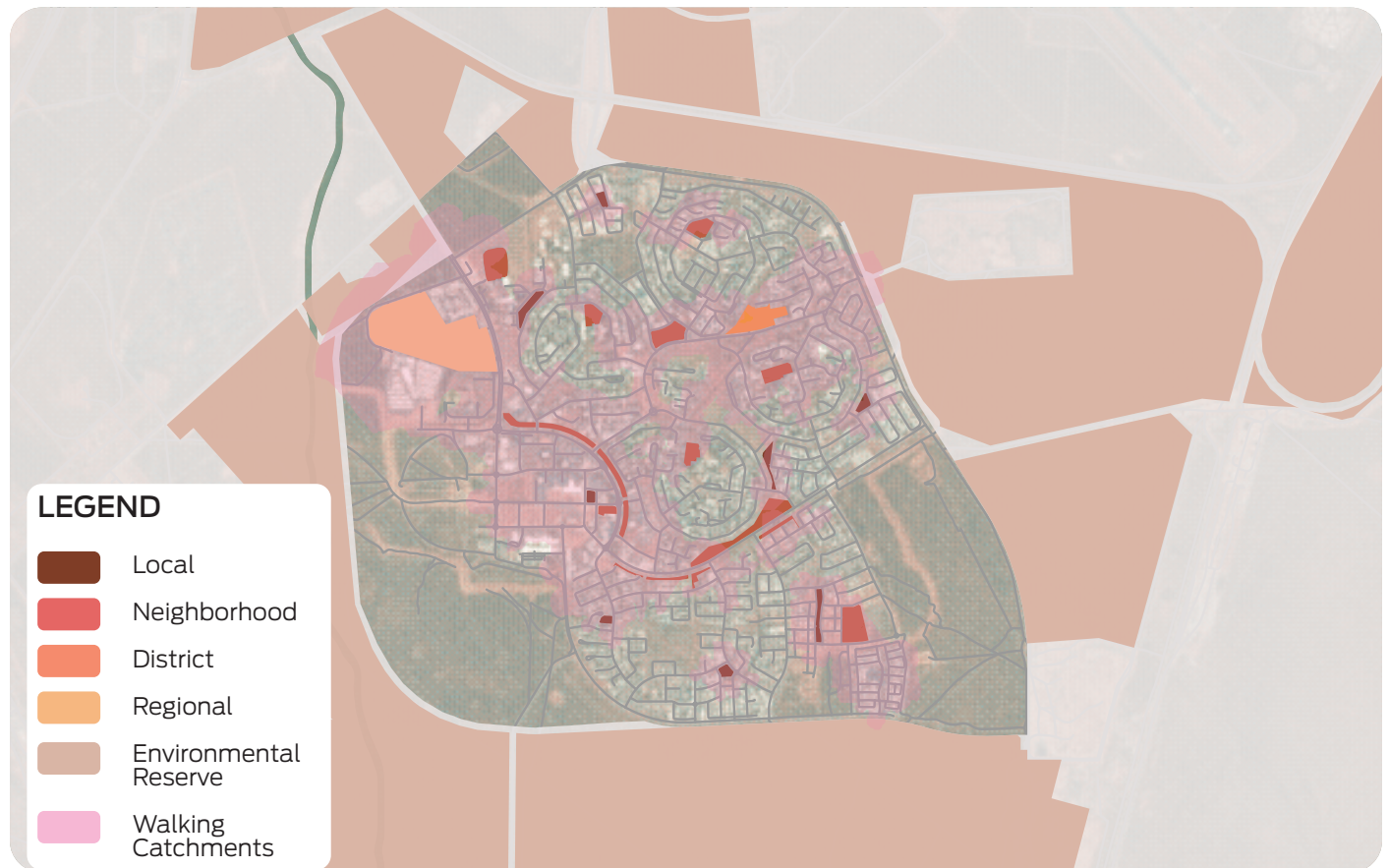


## Legislated Function Assessment

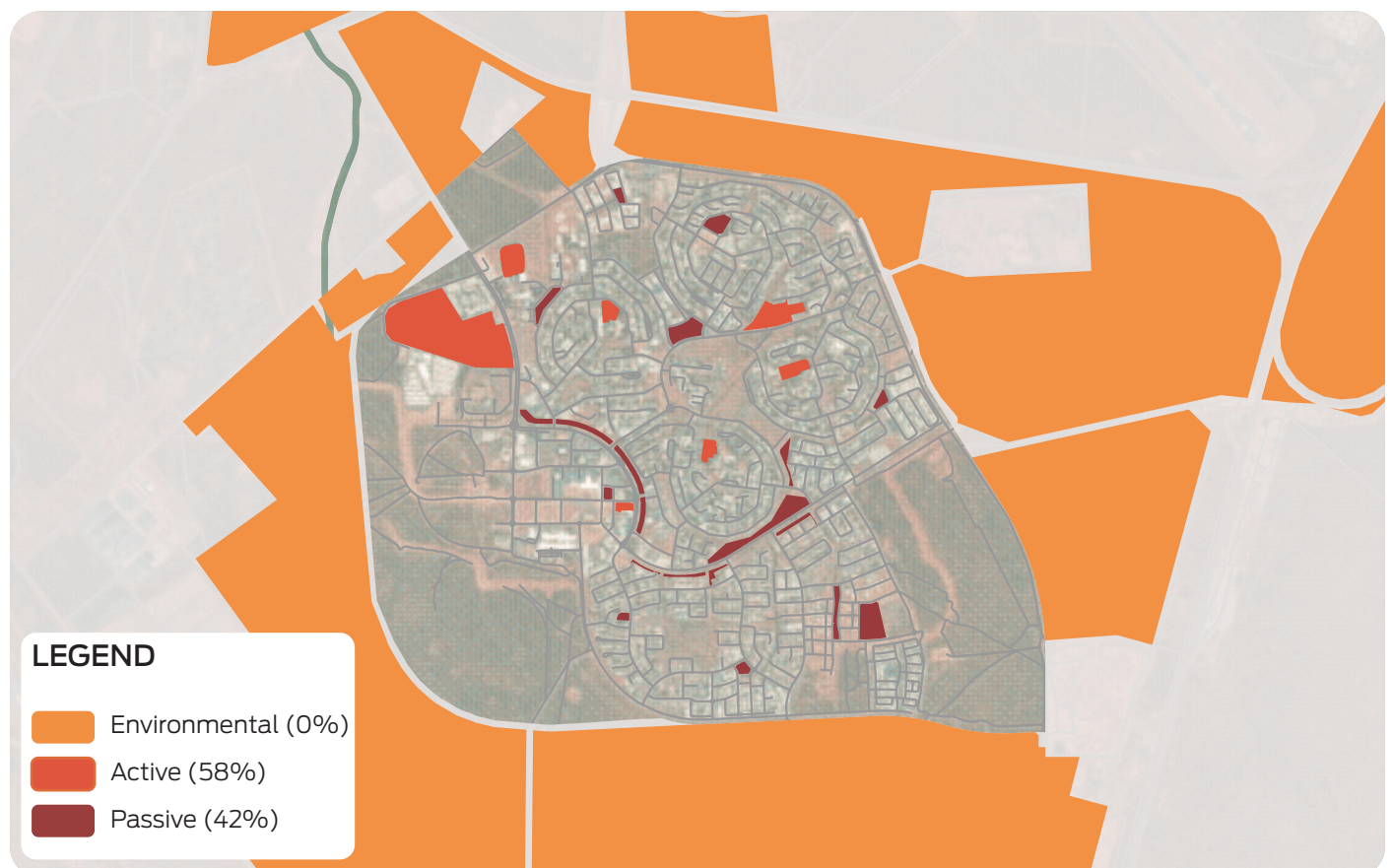




## Contextualised Hierarchy Assessment



## Contextualised Function Assessment



Note: Percentages shown is of land in study area boundary only

# Green Cover Assessment

## SOUTH HEDLAND







Increasing levels of Canopy Cover in South Hedland

- ① Marie Marland Reserve
- ② Limestone Park
- ③ Shay Gap Memorial Park

#### LEGEND CANOPY (%)

<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #c00000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	0.00 - 5.00
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #800000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	5.01 - 10.00
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #400000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	10.01 - 15.00
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #000000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	15.01 - 20.00
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #000000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	20.01 - 30.00
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #000000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	30.01 - 40.00
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #000000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	40.01 - 50.00
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #000000; border: 1px solid black;"></span>	50.01 - 100.00

# Understanding the Impact of Native Title

The Town of Port Hedland is intricately linked to the Kariyarra, Nyamal and Ngarla people, each with their own cultural heritage and connection to the land.

Incorporating their history and cultural practices into the planning and delivery of Hedland's green network is essential for creating spaces that honour and reflect our Indigenous community. This includes recognising Native Title claims, respecting sacred sites, and engaging with local Aboriginal communities to ensure that their cultural values and traditional knowledge are integrated into design and maintenance practices.

## Native Title and Public Open Space in Port Hedland

Native Title is a legal recognition of the traditional rights and interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in land and waters, based on their continuous connection to Country under traditional laws and customs. In Port Hedland, Native Title is a key consideration in the planning, delivery, and management of public open space, particularly in areas subject to the Kariyarra Native Title Determination.

The Kariyarra Native Title Agreement, established between the Kariyarra people and the State of Western Australia, formally recognises the Kariyarra people's rights over large parts of the Port Hedland area. This agreement provides a framework for engagement and cultural recognition in land use planning and development. Additionally, the Strelley Native Title Agreement applies to land outside the Port Hedland townsite boundary and should be considered in broader regional planning contexts.

### Existing Agreements

In 2022, the Town of Port Hedland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation (KAC), the trustee for the Kariyarra people's native title. The MOU establishes a framework for entering into voluntary Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) to support future municipal works on Kariyarra native title land, avoiding the need for litigation.

Beyond compensation, the MOU outlines shared benefits for the Kariyarra community, including cultural heritage protection, employment and social opportunities, support for KAC led developments, and wayfinding signage. This agreement marks a significant step in recognising the Kariyarra people as traditional owners and lays the foundation for a strong, ongoing partnership.

### Planning

Before proposing new open space, the Town must determine whether the land is within an area covered by the Kariyarra Native Title Agreement or subject to any Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). Where applicable, the Town is required to engage with the Kariyarra Traditional Owners to ensure that planning outcomes reflect cultural values, respect spiritual connections to land, and support shared decision-making. This may influence the types of permissible activities or the location and design of public open spaces.

### Delivery

POS projects within Native Title areas must be designed and delivered in a culturally appropriate manner. This may involve incorporating traditional knowledge, recognising cultural heritage sites, or including art, language, or interpretation elements that reflect Kariyarra identity. Collaborative design processes should be prioritised to ensure outcomes align with the values of Traditional Owners and the expectations of the broader community.

### Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance of open space within Native Title areas may require culturally sensitive approaches. The Kariyarra people may have input into how landscapes are managed, particularly in relation to environmental stewardship, land care practices, and ceremonial considerations. Maintenance regimes should be flexible enough to accommodate cultural protocols and seasonal knowledge, contributing to both ecological sustainability and cultural continuity.







# Understanding Non-Exclusive Areas and 47A / 47B Zones

## Non-Exclusive Area

A non-exclusive area in the context of Native Title refers to land where Native Title rights exist but are not exclusive. This means Traditional Owners have certain rights to access, use, or manage the land alongside other uses or public rights. While these areas allow for shared land use, the Town must still consult with the Registered Native Title Body Corporate (RNTBC) when planning public open space or infrastructure to ensure cultural and legal considerations are respected.

## 47A and 47B Zones

These refer to sections of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth):

- Section 47A allows Native Title to be recognised over certain land held by or for Aboriginal people (such as reserves or grants).
- Section 47B allows Native Title to be recognised over vacant Crown Land that is not subject to any lease or reservation for public purposes.

These zones have been identified across the Town of Port Hedland, particularly in Port Hedland, and represent areas where Native Title may be determined or reinstated, subject to legal conditions.

## Planning Implications

- Consultation Requirement: Development or open space planning in these areas requires early and ongoing engagement with the native title holders (e.g. Kariyarra Aboriginal Corporation).
- Cultural Design Considerations: POS within these zones should integrate Indigenous cultural values and may include sacred sites or community-specific infrastructure.
- Land Use Limitations: Use or development of POS may be limited or modified to reflect the conditions of native title recognition, especially in 47A or 47B areas where traditional rights are stronger.
- Land Tenure Impacts: The Town must confirm tenure and title status before acquisition, development, or rezoning, especially if considering land transfers, infrastructure upgrades, or long-term POS planning.

While non-exclusive areas may allow for co-use with Traditional Owners, 47A and 47B zones carry greater significance and planning obligations under the Native Title Act. The Town must ensure that public open space delivery in these areas is culturally responsive, legally compliant, and collaboratively planned with native title representatives.





Determination Areas of Native Title

- Non-exclusive area
- 47A and 47B NTA zones



Data Sources: Registered Native Title Body Corporate Areas, DPLH espacial Kariyarra Determination of Native Title, Landgate

# Public Open Space Contributions + Cash in Lieu Requirements

The provision of POS or cash-in-lieu (CIL) for residential areas is governed by the DPLH's Development Control Policy 2.3 POS in Residential Areas (DCP 2.3). It is noted that the DCP 2.3 is subject to a comprehensive review. However, the Town must still align CIL contribution requirements with this policy until such time that it is updated or advised otherwise. In conjunction with the requirements set in DCP 2.3, the Town will continue to undertake a holistic assessment of subdivision and CIL submissions in line with the previously identified POS provision assessment process.

## Use and Management of Cash-in-Lieu Funds

CIL funds must be used in accordance with the conditions outlined in DCP 2.3 and the Position Statement: Expenditure of Cash-in-Lieu of POS (2020). In general, these funds must be:

- Spent on land managed by the local government,
- Freely accessible to the public (i.e., no entry fees or membership restrictions),
- Dedicated to recreational use under local planning schemes.
- Acceptable uses of CIL funds include:
- Purchasing land for parks, recreation grounds, or open space within the same locality as the contributing subdivision;
- Repayment of loans used by the local government to acquire such land;
- With Ministerial approval, the development or enhancement of public open spaces that are vested in or managed by the local government.

Investments may include amenities and infrastructure such as:

- Seating, shading, pathways, car parking, lighting, and signage;
- Toilets, change rooms, landscaping, and play equipment;
- Projects that enhance the function, accessibility, safety, and amenity of open space.

Initiatives that align with this Strategy or improve ecological systems and community identity.

## Locality and Catchment Considerations

CIL funds must be spent within the same locality (typically the same suburb) as the originating subdivision and must clearly benefit that area. The scale and nature of the expenditure should align with the classification and role of the POS:

- For small, local POS, investments should be within a walkable catchment of the subdivision;
- For larger spaces (e.g., district or community parks), expenditure may be appropriate within a broader catchment serving the subdivision.

When determining CIL requirements, the accessibility of nearby open spaces is critical. Physical or functional barriers—such as highways, industrial areas, large bushland corridors, or inadequate pedestrian infrastructure—must be considered when assessing whether local POS is truly accessible. In cases where local POS access is lacking or suboptimal, CIL should be directed to spaces that can best serve the community's recreation needs.

Any expenditure of CIL funds on existing reserves must be assessed on merit and within context. Final approval for such uses rests with the Minister for Planning.



## POS Contributions Under Strata Title Development (DCP 1.3)

Development Control Policy 1.3 – Strata Titles (DCP 1.3) outlines general requirements for strata developments, including provisions for public purposes such as POS. Given that modern strata schemes often resemble conventional subdivisions in their layout and function, DCP 1.3 allows for POS contributions in a similar manner.

Under Section 3.3 of the policy, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) may require a POS contribution for strata proposals involving more than a small number of lots. Where applicable, up to 50% of the required 10% POS contribution may be delivered as communal open space within the development—provided it offers usable, functional space for general recreation. The remaining portion of the contribution may be satisfied either through off-site POS provision or by a CIL payment.

Strata developments comprising five lots or fewer are not automatically subject to a CIL requirement. However, as with conventional subdivisions of similar scale, CIL may still be requested under certain conditions—particularly in areas with limited POS provision or poor access to existing public open spaces. In such cases, careful consideration of DCP 1.3 is recommended to ensure contributions are appropriately aligned with local needs and planning priorities.

## Public Open Space Contributions and FIFO Workforce Accommodation

The substantial Fly-In-Fly-Out (FIFO) workforce in Port Hedland places unique pressures on the POS network, requiring a considered and equitable approach to POS provision. Although FIFO workers are not permanent residents, they frequently utilise public spaces for recreation, exercise, and social connection during off-duty hours. This transient population contributes to increased demand on parks and community facilities, often without corresponding infrastructure investment.

To address this imbalance, it is appropriate to require contributions—such as cash-in-lieu (CIL)—from workforce accommodation developments. These contributions establish a clear nexus between the development and its impact on the POS network, ensuring that open spaces are adequately funded, maintained, and expanded. In doing so, the Town can better meet the recreational needs of both FIFO workers and permanent residents, reduce strain on existing facilities, and promote broader community health and wellbeing.



# Public Open Space Strategy Recommendations

## General Recommendations

- 1. Require POS Contributions from all eligible residential subdivisions**
  - Request POS contributions for all residential subdivisions, including those with five lots or fewer, particularly in POS-deficient areas such as South Hedland.
- 2. Support Use of CIL Contributions on:**
  - Park upgrades (shade, play, lighting, seating, etc.)
  - Urban greening and canopy enhancement
  - Drainage corridor activation
  - Linear connections between POS and neighbourhood centres
- 3. Establish Catchment-Based CIL Use**
  - Require that CIL be spent within the same suburb as the contributing subdivision.
  - Use broader catchment definitions where POS serves district or regional roles.
- 4. Create POS Reserve and Investment Plan**
  - Establish dedicated CIL Reserve Funds for South and Port Hedland.
- 5. Require POS Contributions from Workforce Accommodation**
  - Prepare a Local Planning Instrument to mandate POS contributions (CIL only) from all workforce accommodation proposals.
  - Define contribution rates (e.g. per bed or occupancy unit).
- 6. Local Planning Strategy Amendment**
  - The planning implications of this strategy should be reflected in the Local Planning Strategy and implemented through an amendment to the Local Planning Strategy, to support effective statutory implementation.
- 7. Comprehensive Open Space Master Plan**
  - Based on the Strategy's findings that both Port and South Hedland have adequate open space provision in terms of percentage and per capita measures, yet recognising South Hedland's shortfall in sporting facilities and the community's need for more diverse play opportunities, it is evident that the open space network is currently underperforming. It is recommended that the Town develop a comprehensive Open Space Master Plan to provide detailed, site-specific recommendations for both new and existing open spaces and play areas. This plan should be informed by on-the-ground validation of the gap analysis and shaped through engagement with the community and local sporting organisations to ensure it responds directly to local needs and priorities.
- 8. Improve Delivery Standards**
  - The Town prepare a Planning FAQ or other planning instrument to provide clear and accessible information for developers, consultants, and community members on the required standards, level of detail, and quality expectations for the design and delivery of POS. This document should include guidance on design principles, landscaping requirements, infrastructure expectations, maintenance considerations, and the approval process to ensure consistency, transparency, and high-quality outcomes across all new developments.
- 9. POS Ownership**
  - The Town of Port Hedland adopt a policy position that any open space developed by private landowners or developers, which does not meet the Town's endorsed design standards, quality benchmarks, or functional requirements, will not be accepted for transfer into Council ownership or management.



## Recommendations for Future POS in Port Hedland

- 1. Prioritise CIL for all Redevelopments (Precinct, Infill and Small-Scale Developments)**
  - Accept CIL for developments ≤10 dwellings or on small urban infill lots where POS provision would be inefficient.
  - Ensure CIL improves local POS quality or supports destination parks.
- 3. Use CIL for Coastal POS Enhancements and Greening**
  - Prioritise CIL spending on key priority parks
  - Fund upgrades including shade, lighting, event infrastructure, and tree planting.

## Recommendations for Future POS in South Hedland

- 1. Require On-Site POS for Subdivisions Over 5 Lots**
  - Enforce full 10% POS land contribution on all subdivisions over five lots.
  - POS must be usable, accessible, and provide diverse functions (play, fitness, shade).
- 2. Restrict Use of CIL to Exceptional Cases**

Permit CIL only where:

  - Functional POS exists within 300-400m
  - The contribution directly improves access, function, or quality of nearby parks.
- 3. Prioritise POS in areas of shortfall**
  - Require new POS in structure plan areas (refer to detailed recommendations pg 86-87).
  - Invest in play spaces, youth activity zones, shaded areas, and sports infrastructure.
- 4. Activate Drainage Corridors and Linear Links**
  - Use CIL and structure plan tools to convert drainage land into functional open space.
  - Provide shade, pathways, lighting, and gathering nodes.





## Recommendations for Future POS in South Hedland Development Areas

### A. Hamilton Road

#### Recommendation

- POS to be provided on-site

#### Considerations

- The approved structure plan includes 0.34 ha of POS classified as local. Due to future population growth and a shortfall in local-level POS in South Hedland, this should be developed
- Integration with nearby district parks is acceptable, but not a substitute for walkable POS.

### B. Pundulmurra

#### Recommendation

- POS to be provided on-site

#### Considerations

- This is a key growth precinct adjacent to TAFE and educational facilities. A diverse and multi-functional POS offering will complement institutional land use and address shortfalls identified in South Hedland.
- Opportunities for shared use (e.g. sports fields) and youth-friendly design.

### C. Trumpet Way

#### Recommendation

- POS to be provided on-site

#### Considerations

- Serves residential expansion in South Hedland where there is an identified shortfall in local and active POS. Cash-in-lieu would not provide adequate functional value.
- Small, shaded, walkable parks with play equipment or nature play.

### D. Club Hamilton

#### Recommendation

- CIL

#### Considerations

- Adjacent to SHISH masterplan area

### E. Osprey Rural

#### Recommendation

- POS to be provided on-site

#### Considerations

- The area's strategic location and surrounding POS shortfalls necessitate land-based contributions to meet local accessibility and recreational needs.
- A greenfield edge development with no nearby walkable POS. On-site provision is essential to avoid isolation and ensure access for future residents.
- Small recreation and passive use spaces that support rural transition lifestyle.
- Consolidation of all POS into one large central POS.

### F. Osprey West

#### Recommendation

- POS to be provided on-site

#### Considerations

- Although Osprey West has a neighbourhood park, the area will see increased pressure and lacks diversity in open space functions. Additional POS is needed to support future growth and buffer nearby rural expansion.
- Incorporate trees and passive use alongside drainage corridors.



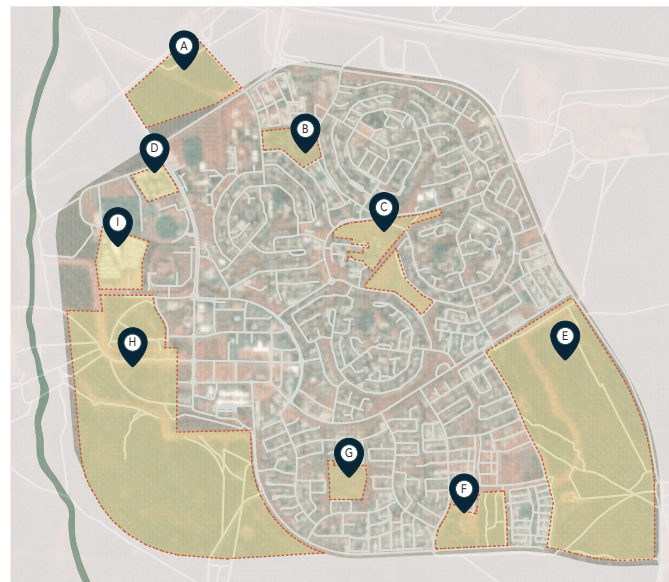
## G. Koombana

### Recommendation

- POS to be provided on-site

### Considerations

- Consideration to include the consolidation of POS spaces into one large central POS
- Koombana Park already exists, but population growth forecasts and poor POS diversity require additional provision nearby. This is a key opportunity to provide active or multipurpose open space within the precinct.



## H. Western Edge

### Recommendation

- POS to be provided on-site

### Considerations

- This area is within walkable proximity to the Town Centre, but is anticipated to support significant population growth. On-site provision will ensure future residents have immediate, accessible recreation areas.
- Consideration should be given to the strategic use of green links and drainage integration to connect to Town centre spokes.

## I. Forrest Circle

### Recommendation

- CIL

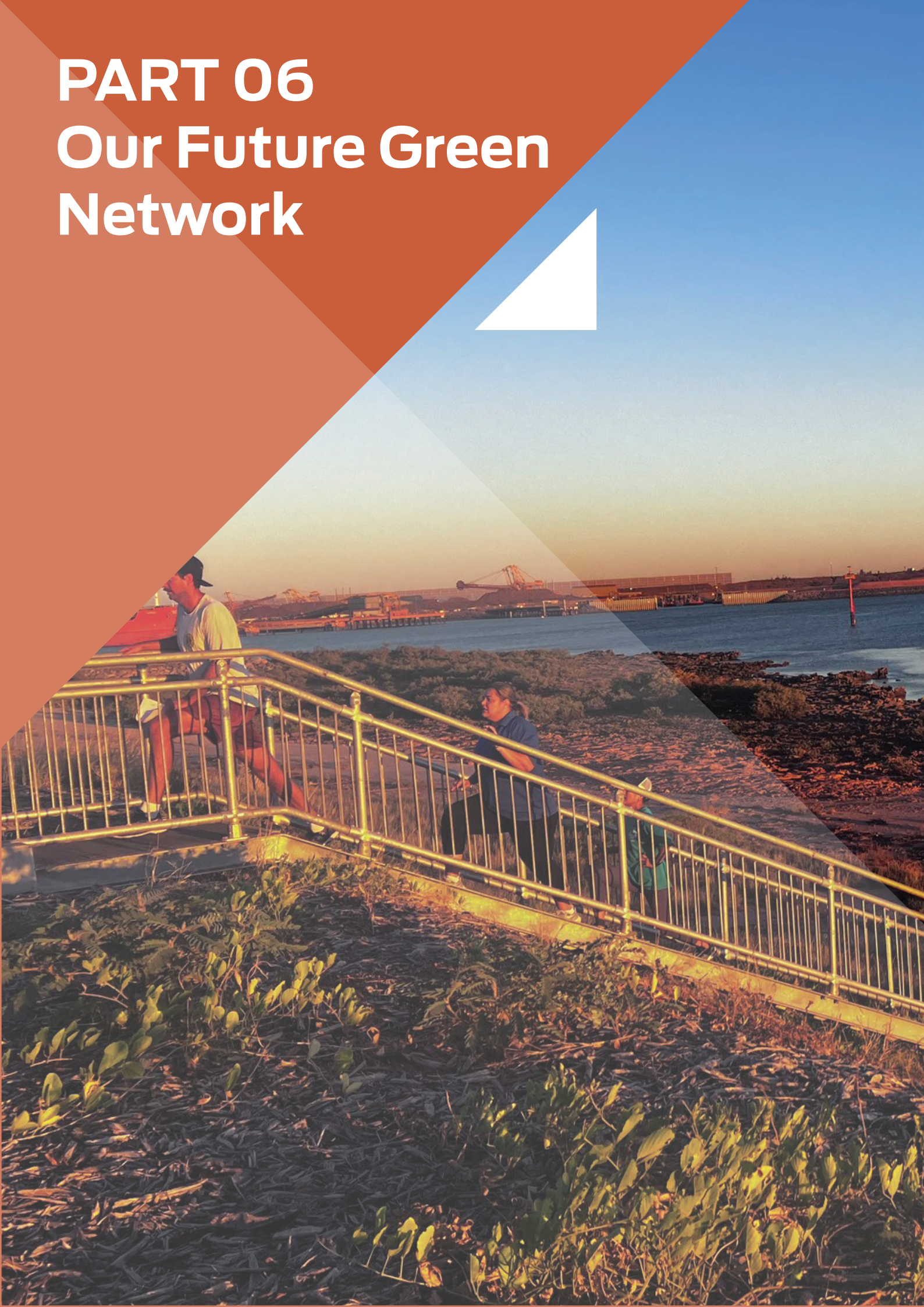
### Considerations

- Adjacent to SHISH masterplan area
- The area is already well-connected to Forrest Circle District Park, offering high canopy and amenity. Additional small-scale local parks could be supplemented by CIL, provided contributions improve connectivity and amenity of existing POS.
- Only allow CIL where local access and catchment gaps are addressed .



# PART 06

## Our Future Green Network









# Framework for Change

## The Hub + Spoke Model

To guide the delivery of Hedland's green network, this strategy adopts a "hub and spoke" model as the foundation for implementation. This model provides a practical and coordinated framework for delivering priority open spaces and green streets by emphasising the relationship between major destination parks (hubs) and the smaller, connected open spaces and green corridors (spokes) that serve surrounding neighbourhoods.

Through this approach, the Town can deliver a cohesive, walkable, and climate-resilient network of public open spaces that respond to local needs and future growth. The model will guide decision-making around where and how to prioritise investment, ensuring that improvements to open space and street greening deliver maximum community, environmental, and recreational benefit.



### Primary Hubs

Primary hubs serve as a major open space or natural area that offers extensive recreational, cultural, and ecological functions. They act as a focal point for the community, providing amenities like playgrounds, sports facilities, gardens, and natural habitats.



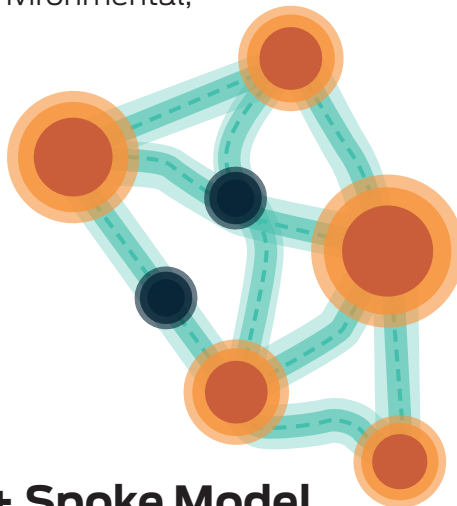
### Secondary Hubs

These are smaller open spaces distributed throughout the community, such as pocket parks, community gardens, and landscaped areas.



### Spoke - Streets & Corridors

Pathways, or tree-lined streets that connect the hub with the spokes, facilitating movement of people, wildlife, and even water. These corridors enhance connectivity, allowing for safe walking, cycling, and the movement of species between green spaces.



## Benefits of the Hub + Spoke Model

The hub and spoke model in public open space planning concentrates key amenities within a central hub and connects peripheral neighbourhoods via pathways or "spokes." This design enhances community accessibility, making it easier for residents to participate in events, recreation, and social interactions. Smaller parks along the spokes ensure diverse recreational options are distributed throughout the community.

Resource allocation is optimised, with significant maintenance and facilities concentrated in the central hub, promoting sustainability and efficient management. The less resource-intensive spokes extend green spaces, offering safe routes for walking and cycling, thereby encouraging physical activity and fostering community connectivity.

Ecologically, the model supports biodiversity through interconnected green spaces forming ecological corridors, aiding wildlife movement, plant dispersal, and habitat variety. The central hub often functions as a biodiversity hotspot, complemented by specialised habitats along the spokes. Additionally, this setup enhances stormwater management, supports pollinator pathways, regulates micro-climates, and provides opportunities for conservation education and environmental stewardship.



# Actions + Implementation Strategies

## Applying the Hub + Spoke Model

Applying the hub and spoke model in Hedland involves three logical steps.

# 01

### Enhancing the Hubs

Establishing new and enhancing the existing hubs to ensure they are functioning as individual sites and as a part of a network

#### Strengthening the Green Network: Priority Projects

The implementation of the Hub and Spoke model in Hedland provides a practical and strategic framework for guiding future investment in public open space (POS) and street greening. This model supports the creation of a cohesive and accessible green network that balances centralised amenity (hubs) with distributed, walkable connectivity (spokes).

The strategy identifies priority hubs—existing and proposed open spaces that have the potential to serve as key recreational, cultural, and ecological destinations—and priority spokes, which are strategically important streets and corridors that connect neighbourhoods to these hubs. These corridors support walkability, enhance tree canopy, and provide safe, shaded links for pedestrians and cyclists.

#### Priority Public Open Spaces (Hubs)

Using a standardised assessment tool (SOSAT), the strategy evaluated each POS across four key criteria: access and connectivity, aesthetics and condition, activity opportunities, and comfort and amenity. The resulting scores identified those spaces that require immediate investment to meet community needs and expectations. These high-priority hubs are spread across both Port Hedland and South Hedland and have been selected for their potential to deliver maximum social, environmental, and recreational value.

# 02

### Blurring the Edges

Expand the greening and amenities into the areas surrounding the hubs to increase the benefits.

#### Priority Streets and Corridors (Spokes)

In parallel, a priority street assessment was conducted based on four criteria: existing canopy cover, resilience of local communities (SEIFA index), proximity to social infrastructure, and alignment with active transport routes. This analysis identified 20 high-performing streets—primarily located in South Hedland—that are now considered priority “spokes” for investment in street tree planting and public realm improvements. These streets serve high-density residential areas and connect key destinations such as schools, parks, and civic spaces. By focusing on these corridors, the strategy ensures that greening efforts address urban heat, improve health outcomes, and support vibrant, walkable neighbourhoods.

#### Aligning Investment with Impact

The implementation of priority hubs and spokes enables the Town of Port Hedland to allocate resources where they are needed most. This integrated approach will guide staged improvements, ensure equitable access to green infrastructure, and support the Town’s broader objectives of climate resilience, social cohesion, and urban amenity. Future projects should continue to build on this framework, prioritising investment in areas of greatest need while reinforcing the long-term vision of a connected, inclusive, and sustainable green network.

# 03

### Strengthening the Spokes

Establishing and enhancing the spokes that connect the hubs to complete the network.

# Port Hedland Hub + Spoke Model

## HUBS



Primary Hub



Secondary Hub



Green Gateway



Public Open Space



POS walking Catchment

## SPOKES



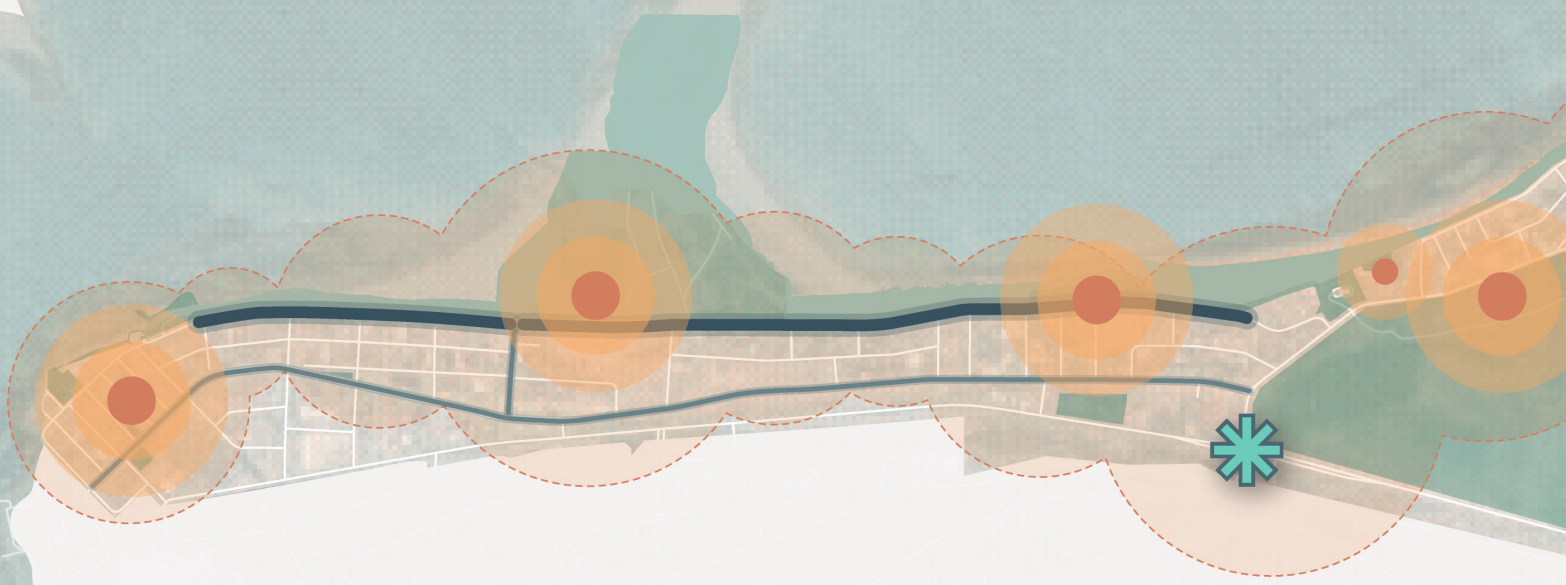
Primary  
Infrastructure Spoke



Secondary  
Infrastructure Spoke



Minor Spoke



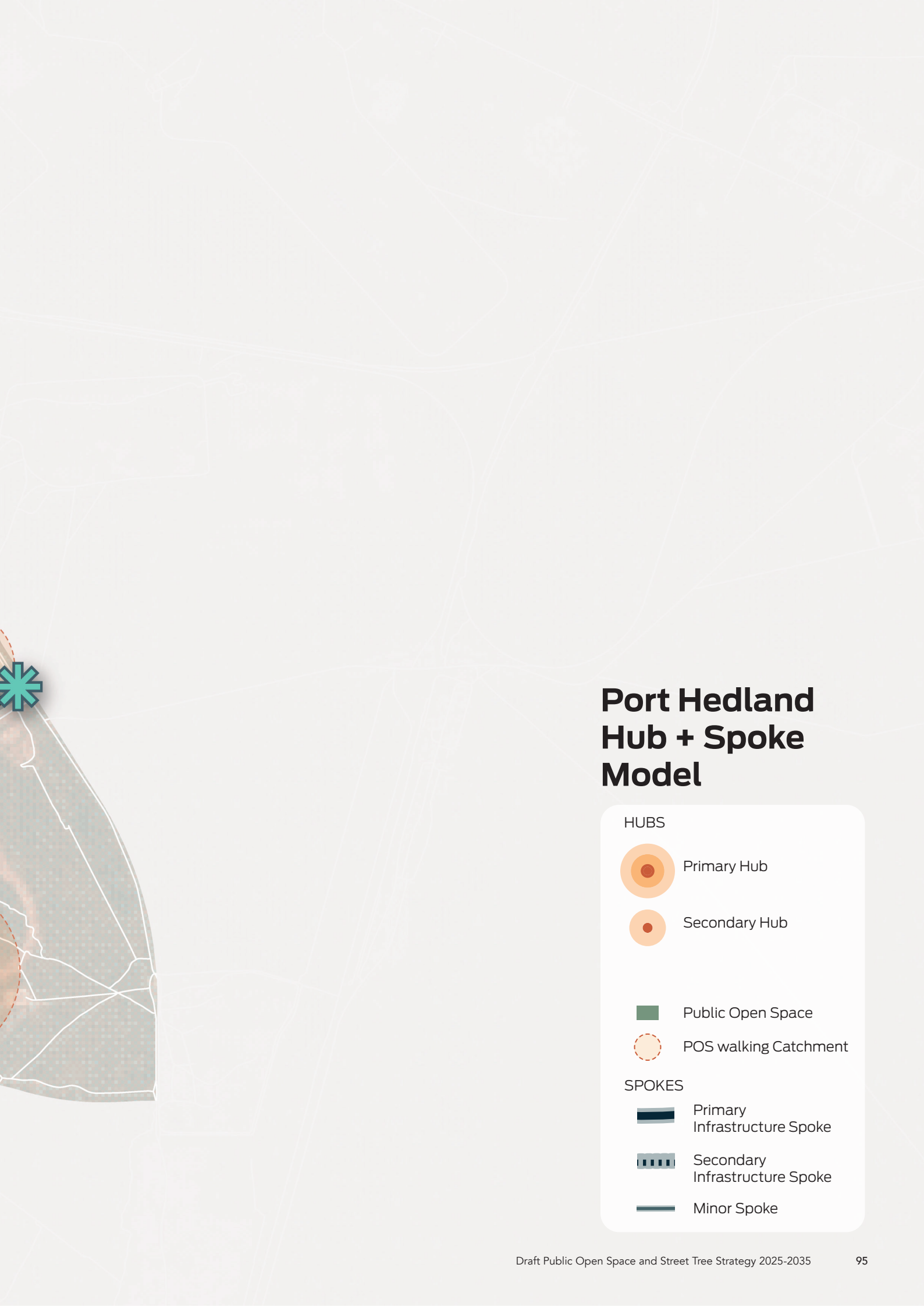












## Port Hedland Hub + Spoke Model

### HUBS



Primary Hub



Secondary Hub



Public Open Space



POS walking Catchment

### SPOKES



Primary  
Infrastructure Spoke



Secondary  
Infrastructure Spoke



Minor Spoke

# Identifying the Priority Streets

To support the implementation of the hub and spoke model, this strategy identifies priority streets across the Town where new tree planting and streetscape greening will deliver the greatest impact. These streets—acting as key “spokes” within the green network—will improve walkability, provide critical connections to parks and community destinations, and enhance shade and comfort in high-use areas. To determine priorities, four key criteria were applied, with each street evaluated and scored based on its performance and need. Streets with the highest overall scores have been identified as priority corridors for greening investment. The following section outlines these criteria, with detailed assessment outcomes provided in the pages that follow.

## Street Tree Canopy

The existing tree canopy mapping highlights the percentage of canopy coverage across the Town. Many streets currently fall within the 0-10% range. To align with planning priorities, priority streets will be identified based on their strategic location, contribution to key objectives, and potential to significantly increase canopy cover.

## Resilient Communities

Communities in areas of socio-economic disadvantage are more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat. The mapping highlights these areas, where residents face heightened risks from extreme heat events. Priority will be given to disadvantaged areas that also contain streets and social infrastructure in strategic locations, ensuring targeted greening efforts where they are needed most.

## Social Infrastructure

Public open space (POS) is the community's top priority for greening. Mapping of POS, schools, community hubs, business areas, and a 200m walking radius guides these efforts. Planting will focus first on POS with the lowest canopy cover, along with nearby streets connecting to schools and civic spaces.

## Access and Movement

Shaded streets reduce urban heat, promote active transport, improve comfort, and encourage recreation. Tree planting will be prioritised along routes from the Town's Active Transport Strategy, with additional focus on streets popular for walking and cycling or those connecting open spaces and social infrastructure.





# Identification of Priority Streets

Applying the four prioritisation criteria has resulted in the identification of 12 key streets—or “spokes”—across Port and South Hedland. Reflecting the Town’s demographic patterns, the majority of these priority streets are located in South Hedland, where a larger and growing population base creates greater demand for walkable, shaded, and connected environments. Prioritising investment in South Hedland ensures that implementation efforts deliver the greatest community value, reaching the highest number of residents with improvements that support everyday movement, comfort, and wellbeing.

These priority streets not only enhance local connectivity but also function as vital public spaces where increased canopy cover and improved amenity will foster social interaction, economic vitality, and resilience to extreme heat. By concentrating resources in these areas, the strategy aligns with its hub and spoke model, delivering targeted enhancements where they are most needed and creating a more liveable, equitable, and climate-adapted community.

	Street name	Location	Canopy Cover	Resilient Communities (SEIFA Index)	Social Infrastructure	Active Movement	Total Score	
①	Roberts St	SH	4	4	5	5	18	●
②	Parker St	SH	3	3.5	5	5	16.5	●
③	Sutherland St Pedestrian Zone	PH	5	2.5	4	5	16.5	●
④	Kookaburra Blvd	SH	5	4	4	3	16	●
⑤	Murdoch Dr	SH	4	4	3	5	16	●
⑥	Sutherland St	PH	4	2	5	5	16	●
⑦	Forrest Cr	SH	2	3.5	5	5	15.5	●
⑧	Hamilton Rd	SH	4	2.5	5	4	15.5	●
⑨	Baler Cl	SH	4	4	4	3	15	●
⑩	Lawson St	SH	3	4	5	3	15	●
⑪	Weaver Pl	SH	3	4	5	3	15	●
⑫	Kennedy St	SH	3	3.5	4	3	13.5	●

LEGEND

PRIORITY STREETS

High (Top 6)

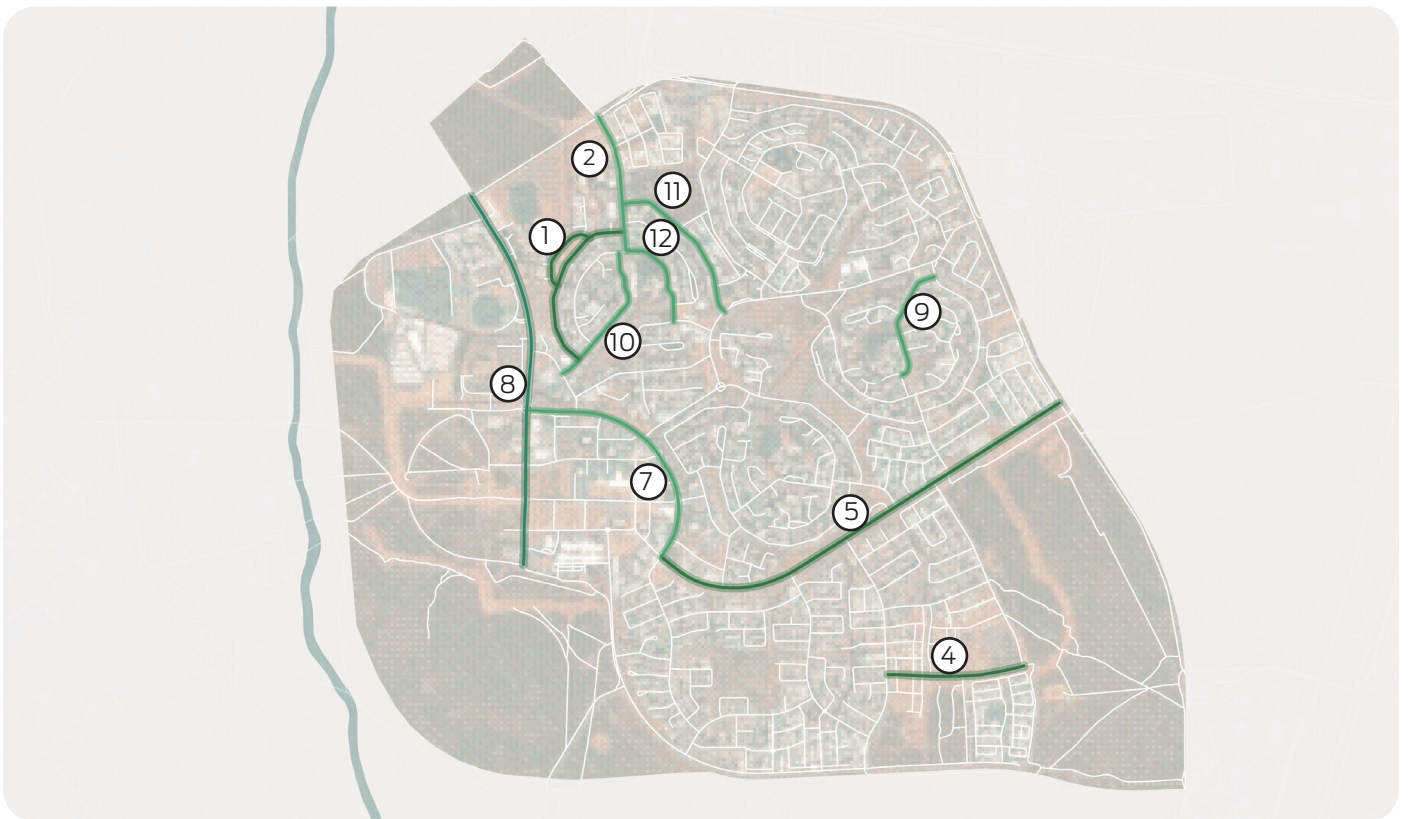
Medium High (Top 12)



## Port Hedland



## South Hedland









# Identifying the Priority Public Open Spaces for Improvement

The Western Australian Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) provides the Subiaco Open Space Assessment Tool (SOSAT) to support local governments in auditing and evaluating the quality and functionality of public open spaces (POS). This tool offers a consistent and structured framework for assessing a wide range of open space attributes, helping ensure these spaces meet community needs and contribute meaningfully to urban liveability.

SOSAT evaluates each space across several key dimensions, including access, amenity, activity opportunities, safety, and overall condition. Scores are assigned based on defined criteria, producing a detailed profile of each space's performance. These aggregated scores enable local governments to identify priority areas for improvement, ensuring that investment is directed where it is most needed. Open spaces with lower scores across multiple attributes can be flagged for short-term upgrades or strategic redesign. Ongoing use of SOSAT also provides a valuable means of tracking improvements over time, evaluating the success of interventions, and refining future planning and maintenance strategies.









# Implementation Framework

This strategy sets out a comprehensive action plan to guide the Town of Port Hedland in delivering a more liveable, connected, and resilient open space and street tree network. Informed by the hub and spoke model, these actions translate strategic objectives into tangible outcomes, prioritising initiatives that will have the greatest impact on community wellbeing, environmental performance, and urban quality.

The actions are grouped by theme—including supply, quality, maintenance, water, safety, and greening—and have been developed in response to key challenges, audit findings, and community feedback. Each action identifies the Town’s role, indicative timing, cost, and a measurable success indicator to ensure implementation is transparent, accountable, and responsive to evolving needs. Together, these initiatives provide a clear road map to progressively improve the function, accessibility, and sustainability of Hedland’s green network over time.

## Timing Definition

- Short Term - 1-3 years
- Medium term - 4-6 years
- Long Term - 7-10 years



# 01 Maintenance and Operational Efficiency

## Goal

Develop and implement maintenance strategies and programs that optimise resource use, prioritise public safety, and ensure public open spaces are resilient, sustainable, and consistently well-maintained in Port Hedland's challenging climate.

## Challenges

- Absence of a standardised maintenance manual leading to inconsistent service levels and a Predominantly reactive rather than proactive maintenance approach
- Underutilisation of Aboriginal cultural knowledge and traditional land management practices, despite the areas strong Aboriginal significance.
- High population turnover, resource costs, geographic isolation, and extreme environmental conditions, demanding flexible and responsive maintenance programs.

## Opportunities

- Increased collaboration with community groups eager to participate in stewardship and maintenance.
- Integrating Aboriginal cultural knowledge and traditional practices into routine maintenance, enhancing cultural significance and environmental outcomes.
- Developing strategic, flexible, and responsive maintenance programs to better optimise resources and enhance resilience.

Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
M1	<b>Action</b> Prepare and implement a maintenance manual that establishes standardised maintenance practices and service levels across the Town of Port Hedland's open space and green network. The manual should define clear maintenance standards, aligning resource allocation with community priorities, seasonal demands, and overall impact.	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completion and adoption of the maintenance manual</li></ul>				
M2	<b>Action</b> Develop detailed asset management plans for each open space to track life cycles, guide renewal planning, and inform maintenance schedules.	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 100% completion of asset management plans for all existing public open spaces.</li><li>• Completion of asset plans for any new public open space at practical completion.</li></ul>				



Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
M3	<b>Action</b> Review community requests received through Send Snap Solve or other means to inform improvements to maintenance standards and user experience. Insights will guide service level improvements and ensure maintenance practices align with community expectations.	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in community satisfaction with playgrounds, parks and reserves as measured through the MARKYT survey</li> <li>Annual review of community requests</li> </ul>				
M4	<b>Action</b> Investigate opportunities to collaborate with existing Aboriginal ranger programs in Hedland to inform a culturally responsive maintenance approach. This should consider integrating traditional land management practices and establishing clear protocols for caring for culturally and historically significant sites.	Partner facilitator	Medium Term	Medium	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with at least one Aboriginal ranger program to develop a framework outlining potential collaboration opportunities and recommended maintenance protocols.</li> <li>Pilot at least one traditional land management practice in an identified open space.</li> </ul>				
M5	<b>Action</b> Foster community participation in open space and tree maintenance through volunteer programs and educational workshops, collaborating with existing community interest groups wherever possible. These initiatives should promote stewardship, skill-sharing, and a shared sense of responsibility for public spaces.	Partner	Short Term	Medium	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot a community partnership program with one community group to co-deliver a maintenance volunteer and education program.</li> <li>If the pilot program is successful, using the learnings to develop other programs.</li> <li>Engage with at least one Aboriginal ranger program to develop a framework outlining potential collaboration opportunities and recommended maintenance protocols.</li> <li>Pilot at least one traditional land management practice in an identified open space.</li> </ul>				

## 02 Safety & Amenity

### Goal

Create welcoming, inclusive, and safe public open spaces that foster enjoyment, community identity, and a sense of belonging for residents and visitors alike.

### Challenges

- Balancing the physical upgrades required with community expectations and perceptions.
- Ensuring all spaces uniformly feel safe, given varying conditions and contexts.
- Implementing solutions that genuinely improve community perceptions and experiences.
- Securing sufficient resources and community support to implement comprehensive safety measures.

### Opportunities

- Proactively address community safety concerns by utilising community feedback to inform targeted improvements, enhancing public engagement and confidence.
- Develop comprehensive strategies addressing both perceived and actual safety issues.

Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
S1	<b>Action</b> In collaboration with traditional owners, prepare a Public Open Space Indigenous Framework to identify opportunities for strengthening Indigenous representation. This framework should consider cultural design needs, place names, public art, and education opportunities.	Partner	Medium Term	Medium	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion and adoption of the framework</li> </ul>				
S2	<b>Action</b> Review and update the planning framework to ensure land uses surrounding public open spaces are designed to enhance safety through passive surveillance, appropriate built form outcomes, and improved connectivity.	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a comprehensive review of the planning framework</li> <li>• Development of a Planning FAQ covering CPTED principles relating to private property and public open space</li> <li>• Increase in perceived community safety ratings in the MARKYT survey over the life of the Public Open Space Strategy</li> </ul>				
S3	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly conduct safety audits of all public open spaces, identifying and implementing follow-up actions to address identified hazards.</li> </ul>	Provider	Short Term	Medium	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of parks are audited every six months.</li> <li>• 80% of follow up actions are implemented by the next audit (within 6 months)</li> </ul>				



Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
S4	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and support the active use of public open spaces by local community groups and businesses through inclusive information and community events.</li> </ul>	Partner	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of information for community groups and businesses who want to use parks</li> <li>Increase in number of park bookings by community groups and businesses</li> </ul>				



## 03 Greening & Shade

### Goal

Enhance urban canopy and shade provision across the Town's public spaces to create cooler, healthier, more inviting, and environmentally resilient environments that improve livability and accessibility for the entire community.

### Challenges

- Effectively addressing the hot and arid climate of the region.
- Securing resources to significantly increase tree cover and install shade structures.
- Ensuring the resilience and long-term maintenance of increased urban canopy.
- Balancing shade provision with other functional needs of public spaces.

### Opportunities

- Improve comfort and public health through increased shade coverage in streets and public spaces.
- Boost environmental sustainability by expanding tree coverage.
- Enhance livability and accessibility of parks, streetscapes, and recreational areas by creating cooler, more inviting, and resilient public spaces.

Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
G1	<b>Action</b> Conduct a tree survey to assess the health, level of service, and value of the Town's tree assets.	Provider	Medium Term	High	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% of trees surveyed.</li> </ul>				
G2	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the planning framework to identify and action opportunities for tree retention, such as a 'Code of Practice' on public land and subdivision requirements.</li> </ul>	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a comprehensive planning framework review.</li> </ul>				
G3	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a comprehensive community education and communication program to promote understanding of the importance of greening, highlight individual roles and responsibilities, and inform the community about the Town's initiatives to address environmental issues.</li> </ul>	Provider	Short Term	Medium	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive shift in public perception of greening efforts, measured through community feedback.</li> </ul>				
G4	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for better greening and significant canopy increase on private land, prioritising major landholders.</li> </ul>	Advocate	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement and advocacy plan developed</li> <li>• Advocacy activities undertaken with major landowners</li> </ul>				



Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
G5	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquire and undertaken a biannual canopy data analysis to monitor progress towards targets.</li> </ul>	Provider	Ongoing	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canopy Analysis is undertaken every second financial year.</li> </ul>				
G6	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a comprehensive tree planting program - Top 10 'Priority Streets' as outlined under Part 06</li> </ul>	Provider	Long Term	High	Capital
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in tree canopy and planting coverage across the Town</li> </ul>				
G7	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a comprehensive tree planting program - Top 10 'Priority Public Open Space' as outlined under Part 06. Canopy cover targets for public open spaces have been identified in the Public Open Space Audit Report (Appendix D).</li> </ul>	Provider	Long Term	High	Capital
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in tree canopy and planting coverage across the Town</li> <li>Number of shade trees planted in high-traffic pedestrian areas</li> </ul>				
G8	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the landscaping information on the Town's website including the preferred planting guide, landscaping guidelines and pre-approved items list.</li> </ul>	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated landscaping guidelines that are adopted both internally and externally.</li> </ul>				



## 04 Quality

### Goal

Create inclusive, equitable, and accessible public spaces that meet the diverse needs of the community, ensuring all residents, regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic background, can fully participate in and benefit from the Town's social, cultural, and recreational life.

### Challenges

- Balancing diverse needs and expectations within limited public space resources.
- Ensuring equity in public space access across different socio-economic groups.
- Securing adequate resources to achieve sustained improvements in accessibility and inclusivity.

### Opportunities

- Improve accessibility and the overall quality of public spaces.
- Design public spaces that accommodate diverse community needs, ages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Foster community integration through well-designed, welcoming, and safe public spaces.

Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
Q1	<b>Action</b> Develop a Town-wide Play Master Plan that aligns with community demographics and expands the variety of play experiences, considers sensory based and all abilities play, and temporary and pop-up play opportunities to activate different spaces.	Provider	Long Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with local children and youth to develop the Play Masterplan</li> <li>• Adoption of the Play Masterplan</li> <li>• Increase in community satisfaction with playgrounds, parks and reserves as measured through the MARKYT survey</li> </ul>				
Q2	<b>Action</b> Based on the outcomes of the Public Open Space Audit report, prepare and implement a staged POS facilities rationalisation implementation plan	Provider	Medium Term	High	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of priority open space projects</li> <li>• Preparation of POS facilities rationalisation implementation plan</li> <li>• 70% of identified facilities rationalised</li> </ul>				
Q3	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the Active Transport Strategy to reflect the hub and spoke model and include the Complete Streets concept.</li> </ul>	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Active Transport Strategy is complete.</li> </ul>				



Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
Q4	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all privately owned parks have appropriate Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or formal agreements in place to define responsibilities for maintenance, access, and long-term management.</li> </ul>	Partner	Medium Term	Medium	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of identified privately owned parks have an MOU or formal agreement in place.</li> </ul>				
Q5	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an appropriate planning instrument that establishes the need, nexus, and requirements for POS contributions from workforce accommodation developments</li> </ul>	Provider	Short Term	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion and adoption of the appropriate planning instrument</li> </ul>				
Q6	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All planning and development of Urban Development Zones is in keeping with the findings of this report and its supporting appendices.</li> </ul>	Provider	Ongoing	Low	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% of all new residential structure and development plans are in keeping with the requirements of this report.</li> </ul>				
Q7	<b>Action</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement Audit report findings, refer to Appendix D</li> </ul>	Provider Funder	Long Term	High	Capital
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved quality of existing open spaces reported by the community.</li> </ul>				



## 05 Water

### Goal

Create inclusive, equitable, and accessible public spaces that meet the diverse needs of the community, ensuring all residents, regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic background, can fully participate in and benefit from the Town's social, cultural, and recreational life.

### Challenges

- Managing water resources effectively in a water-scarce region.
- Balancing water conservation with maintaining aesthetic and functional quality of public spaces.
- Ensuring community support and understanding of water-sensitive design benefits.
- Addressing potential technical complexities and maintenance requirements associated with WSUD infrastructure

### Opportunities

- Enhance sustainability and resilience through efficient water management and conservation practices.
- Improve the aesthetic appeal and functionality of public spaces using water-sensitive approaches.
- Foster community appreciation and awareness of water as a valuable resource

Item	Action	Town's Role	Timing	Cost	Project Type
W1	<b>Action</b> Partner with WaterCorp to advocate for improvements required to the WWTP in South to be able to extend their water reuse program, for the benefit of our parks and open spaces.	Advocate Partner	Long Term	High	Operational
	<b>Measure of Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) established with WaterCorp regarding WWTP upgrade</li> <li>• Feasibility study or technical report completed outlining the scope and timing of reuse water extension.</li> <li>• At least one additional POS supplied with reuse water within 5 years of advocacy initiation.</li> </ul>				
W2	<b>Action</b> Develop a drainage study and drainage masterplan for South Hedland utilising the typologies in Appendix A.	Provider Funder	Long Term	High	Operational
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion and adoption of the South Hedland Drainage Masterplan by Council</li> <li>• Integration of WSUD typologies into at least two existing or new POS projects.</li> <li>• Inclusion of drainage and water infiltration metrics in future site design briefs or development approvals.</li> </ul>				
W3	<b>Action</b> Trial a range of WSUD elements that can be retrofitted to existing streets.	Provider	Medium Term	Medium	Capital
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One trial WSUD pilot installations completed and monitored within the designated term</li> <li>• Post-installation evaluation conducted for pilot site.</li> <li>• Inclusion of successful WSUD measures into updated Town design standards or landscape guidelines</li> </ul>				





Public spaces are as profound  
as we allow them to be. They  
are our shared spaces and  
reflect what matters to us as a  
community and as individuals.”

(Candy Chang)