

POLICY DOCUMENT

POLICY NAME: Established Residential Areas
Infrastructure Facilities and
Services Strategy **Policy No:** SP 007

**Adopted by
Council:** Policy Review Committee 8 March
2004 **Minute No:**
PRC155
Ordinary Meeting 15 March 2004 100

Review: **File No:**
Relevant **Responsible Department:**
Legislation: *(if applicable)* Sustainability & Planning

Policy Statement:

This Policy commences on the following page.

Established Residential Areas Infrastructure Facilities and Services Strategy



People's Lifestyle, Aspirations and Needs Study

Adopted by Penrith City Council 15th March 2004



Executive Summary

This report is the final report in the PLANS study conducted by Urbis JHD in association with Stratcorp Consulting on behalf of Penrith Council. The study was conducted in stages commencing in 2002. The study as a whole aimed to evaluate previous planning of recreational, cultural and other urban services and facilities and establish new plans and strategies underpinned by detailed assessment of community needs and aspirations to conserve and enhance Penrith residents' quality of life.

The study stages were:

1. Strategic Research
2. Audit of infrastructure and services
3. Community consultation and development of preliminary strategies
4. Analysis of information and documentation of draft strategies
5. Preparation of draft strategies and consultation
6. Finalisation of strategies and plans

Each of these stages contributed to the information base from which the PLANS Study has developed a set of Infrastructure Facilities and Services Strategies, and a set of recreation and Cultural Strategies. While it is acknowledged that there is significant overlap between these two areas this document attempts to report the findings of each under the substantive headings of Recreation and Culture Strategy which was completed by Stratcorp Consulting and Infrastructure Facilities and Services completed by Urbis JHD.

A series of stand alone reports were completed in 2002 including:

- Audit Report (2002) IKY & Stratcorp)
- Demographic Profile (2002) (UKY)
- Literature Review summary (2002) (UKY)
- Focus Group Summary (2002) (UKY)
- Workshop Summary (2002) (UKY)
- Community Attitudes and Aspirations Survey Report (2002) (UKY & Stratcorp)

These reports were subsequently used by Council in its planning during 2002 and 2003.

The final stage of the study involved production of three reports.

- The Recreational and Cultural Facilities Strategy completed as a stand alone report by Stratcorp Consulting;
- The Section 94 Framework completed as a stand alone report by Urbis JHD; and
- This report which combines the recreation and Cultural Strategy and the Infrastructure Facilities and Services Strategy.

One of the key features of the study process has been the focus on gaining a current understanding of the needs and aspirations of the community through a comprehensive range of social research and community consultation processes. The project team used social research techniques designed to gather accurate information which would allow it to identify a representative view of community needs and issues. The extensive information provided by the project survey and consultative activities undertaken ensures the issues identified and described are well informed by the views and aspirations of the Penrith Community as a whole.

Similarly the Recreation and Cultural Strategies and the Infrastructure Facilities and Services strategies were developed by the study team collaboratively with key stakeholder groups including a wide range of sporting, recreation and cultural groups as well as Council. In doing so the project team endeavoured to ensure that the strategies proposed were practicable, that they maximized the strengths of organizations working within the local area and most importantly were responsive to the needs identified.

Recreational and Cultural Resources

The Penrith LGA has a large range of open space, recreation and cultural facilities for use by residents and visitors. The total open space managed by Council in 2002 was 1,241 hectares representing 7.20 hectares / 1,000 people. This is well above the benchmark standard of 2.83 hectares / 1,000 people. The 1,241 hectares was made up of 412 hectares of parks, 340 hectares of sporting fields, 228 hectares for community use and 261 hectares as natural area.

The provision of 304 hectares for sporting fields is the equivalent of 1.97 hectares / 1,000 people across the Penrith LGA, which is in excess of the open space benchmarks of 1.21 hectares and 1.8 hectares / 1,000 people.

There is currently however a shortage of open space provision for sporting fields in each of the three New Release Areas of Glenmore Park, Erskine Park and Claremont meadows. Given that these areas have a higher proportion of young families relative to the rest of the Penrith LGA, the need for local access to outdoor sports facilities is an immediate need in these areas.

A 'high level' benchmarking comparison, indicates that the Penrith LGA currently has a significant shortage of tennis courts and a moderate shortage of rugby fields, whilst the number of netball courts is in excess. Other popular sports of soccer, cricket, hockey, law bowls and AFL are adequately provided for presently.

A comparison between industry benchmarks and the existing provision of community and cultural facilities in the Penrith LGA, shows that:

- Penrith LGA has a sufficient quantity of community centers, community halls and youth centers.
- Penrith LGA could support an additional 2 - 3 art galleries.
- Penrith LGA has a sufficient provision of regional performing arts centers.
- Penrith LGA could support an additional 3 - 4 smaller performing arts centers.

Key Issues for the Penrith LGA

The key issues identified by the study with regard to provision of recreation and cultural facilities were therefore:

- The need for access to quality and useable open space.
- Provision of high quality passive and informal active recreation opportunities through improvements to the open space network.
- Equitable and affordable access to community facilities and activities for all sectors and target groups within the community.
- Improved promotion of existing community facilities and available activities and services.
- Changing population profile of the Penrith LGA.
- Changing recreational and cultural participation patterns and aspirations of Penrith residents.
- Impact on facility provision from new or emerging activities and/or increased levels of participation in existing activities.
- Sustainable sport and club development.
- Under use of some community facilities.
- Under use of smaller passive parks and open space areas.
- The possible need for new regional community facilities to cater for an expanding population base, and increased recreational and cultural needs.
- Lower than average demand for selected cultural facilities and services balanced against ageing population (high users).
- Improved provision and access to community facilities for young people.
- Improving community access to school facilities.
- Schools use of Council managed community facilities and outdoor areas.

Key Sites

In addition to the broad strategies the project made an assessment of the capacity of 7 designated key sites to meet the future recreation and cultural needs of residents. This assessment included review of each site in context, canvassing community views and recommendation of a proposed direction in each case based on the overall findings of the study findings. The directions proposed in relation to each of these sites were:

Castlereagh Waste Management Centre

- Re-vegetate the site and assess the potential fall, with limited passive recreational facility provision in selected areas of the site (ie, walking and cycling paths) in the long term.
- Establish vegetation/habitat corridors and connections to adjoining areas, especially the Castlereagh Nature Reserve and National Park.

- Investigate the feasibility (with Waste Service) of establishing an environmental ‘business’ on part of the site as a means of funding rehabilitation costs. The concept has a working title of ‘earth park’ and would provide for multiple uses including conservation, ecological research (consistent with revegetation), education/field studies, and related environmental business.
- The footprint for the ‘earth park’ would be small when compared to the total area of the site, and the development would be linked to rehabilitation works. Regional economic benefits could be anticipated by way of employment generation.

Gipps Street Site, Claremont Meadows

- Re-vegetate the site to establish a new municipal-wide open space area comprising a mixture of passive open space opportunities (ie, walking and cycling paths, picnic and playground areas) and sports fields to meet emerging needs of a ‘district’ catchment.
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a regional sports facility.
- Establish off-road connections and ‘green’ corridors to Kingsway Playing Fields and the South Creek linear bushland corridor.

Penrith Lakes Scheme

- Regional water-based park for use by all sections of the community, both Penrith residents and visitors.
- Provision of a range of ‘soft’ activities and services, such as cycleways, picnic areas, non-powered aquatic activities, and fishing.
- Provision of a network of off-road cycleways connecting the various sub-precincts within the Lakes Scheme, and connecting the Lakes Scheme to the Penrith CBD, adjoining bushland areas and to other recreational precincts along the Nepean River.
- Provision of commercial / community adventure type activities, such as an interactive water park and/or water adventure center, subject to a detailed investigation into their feasibility.
- Provision of water bodies appropriate for sailing and recreational small craft (such as kayaks and canoes), and wetlands for nature-based experiences.
- Continued development of international standard aquatic facilities to complement existing rowing course and white-water rafting facility.
- Provision of a range of cultural experiences through public art and embellishments.

The University of Western Sydney

- Council to advocate for increased community use of existing recreational, sporting and cultural facilities.
- Partnership approach between Council, the University and relevant community groups for the continued development of community-based theatre on campus.

- Partnership approach between Council, the University and relevant sporting peak bodies for the investigation into the viability of the development of a ‘high performance sports centre’ at the University.

Nepean River

- Establishment of a continuous water-based park precinct, inclusive of visitor facilities, aquatic recreational and sporting activities, cycleways, commercial cafes/restaurants, and habitat reserves.
- Formalise link with the Great River Walk.
- Investigate the feasibility of staging one-off events for powered water craft.

ADI Site, St Marys

- Establish a new regional park to ensure appropriate flora and fauna habitat areas are preserved.
- Establish a large park which provides for a range of passive and active recreational and sporting facilities to accommodate the needs of future residents at the site (14,400 in total).
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a municipal-wide standard sports facility to service a catchment beyond the immediate residential base.
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing an ‘environmentally sustainable’ center for research and educational purposes (pending the outcome of any proposals planned for the Castlereagh site).

Penrith Park / Showground Precinct

There exist several constraints on Council and other stakeholders in relation to any possible redevelopment of this site. These constraints include:

- The fact that Council does not own a large proportion of the land.
- The historical and traditional uses of several areas across the site, eg, the Paceway for harness racing, the Penrith Stadium for Panthers rugby league matches, and the Howell Oval for cricket.

Given these constraints, the key direction is for all stakeholders to work co-operatively to prepare a new master plan for the precinct and articulate a new ‘vision’ for it. The following proposals are suggestions for improved community access to this important central site in Penrith, which could be considered as part of any master planning process:

- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a new indoor stadium on the site
- Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the Penrith Swimming Pool to provide indoor water areas and associated fitness spaces
- Upgrade the Panthers Stadium to allow a greater use of the venue for alternate sports compatible with a rectangular field (eg, soccer, union, touch)

- Provide improved outdoor areas suitable for staging large outdoor performances and/or events.

Corridor Lands

- Retain / re-vegetate specific sites as natural bushland areas and habitat reserves (Regional Park).
- Develop specific sites for nature-based recreation (off road paths, camping, equestrian paths, low-level visitor facilities).
- Develop interpretative and heritage experiences (paths, signage, place markers).
- Establish a new active sporting precinct in the Werrington and Kingsway area.
- Establish linear paths throughout the Corridor Lands (cycle/pedestrian paths and equestrian paths) to facilitate access and improved connection with adjoining suburbs.

Infrastructure and Service Provision in Established Areas

The guiding principles of the study which directly relate to infrastructure and services were:

- Provision of public infrastructure, facilities and services to the Cities Established and New Release area should be equitable.
- Infrastructure, facilities and services should be accessible throughout the Established areas of the city and to all areas of the community.

This report has considered not only those infrastructure issues which are the direct responsibility of Council but also those which may be the responsibility of other government authorities and where Council's responsibility is as an advocate on behalf of the community to ensure equitable access and accessibility.

The research conducted identified the need for co-ordinated planning and provision of infrastructure in Established areas in order to meet the needs of these communities. This need underpins the proposed framework of suburb clusters within which benchmarking levels for open space, community facilities and services can be set, which consider not only the basic population levels but also locality and quality criteria wherever possible. Assessment of infrastructure needs in this context ensures that provision of infrastructure will be accessible as well as equitable in line with the overall project goals.

The framework proposed focuses on establishing pedestrian and cycleway links between major facilities and services which would enable and encourage greater use of these links both as a means of travel and as a significant recreation facility. Further this framework once identified will guide decisions about priorities for provision of infrastructure such as public landscaping, placement of bus stops and public lighting requirements as well as rationalization of infrastructure to better meet the needs of communities in Established areas.

Many of the key issues identified by the PLANS study relate to infrastructure design issues such as the need for facilities to be physically accessible, for public spaces to feel safe and

for neighbourhood shopping facilities to promote social interaction. These design issues are typically dealt with across a range of disciplines from master planning, social planning, accessibility and equity, as well as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design auditing. Similarly each of these specialist areas is underpinned by the principle that they maximize access to facilities and services by people who use them. The concept of Universal Design while having a focus on the physical encapsulates many of the design issues dealt with in these specialist areas. In particular Universal Design approaches would address those issues identified by older people and people with a disability in terms of the overall accessibility of the Penrith environment.

The wide range of expectations and needs identified in the course of this study shows clearly the need for adoption of more inclusive infrastructure design. In particular issues raised under the headings of shopping centres and meeting and gathering places reinforced the need to adopt broader design principles to meet community expectations. Adoption of the principles of Universal Design in planning and provision of infrastructure services and facilities within Penrith would facilitate achievement of this.

The importance of well designed infrastructure which supports informal community interaction and activity has been a recurrent theme which is highlighted specifically in the following areas:

Meeting and gathering places

The community highlighted as one of its most valued characteristics its friendly environment. People knowing their neighbours, meeting friends at shopping centres and feeling comfortable and safe were important characteristics of the local environment for residents. In terms of infrastructure needs this means ensuring that there are places where all groups within the community can meet and interact.

The provision of social infrastructure in the Penrith CBD and in district shopping/commercial centres is an important consideration in maintaining community cohesiveness in the longer term. This is perhaps one of the more difficult community needs to manage since the character of desired meeting and gathering places varies significantly between age and cultural groups and includes public and private infrastructure. In general however meeting and gathering spaces tend to be associated with neighbourhood, district or regional commercial centres; the veranda of the neighbourhood centre; the café at the district shops or the foyer of the cinema complex. It is important therefore that consideration of meeting and gathering places which cater to all groups within the community is part of the design stage in planning district centres and as part of further work in Penrith's CBD.

Shopping centres

In focus groups and workshops where participants were asked to list the infrastructure which was important in defining their community, local shops appeared consistently in almost all groups. Shopping centres play a major practical and social role for the residents of the LGA. The importance of access to local shops for all groups has been clearly highlighted.

Access to a major shopping centre while rated as less important than the local shopping centre was still an important consideration. The research indicated clearly a community

expectation that the Penrith CBD should continue to develop as a major focal point for social, community and commercial services.

Community safety

Community safety is not wholly an infrastructure issue however the quality, design and usage of certain types of infrastructure have a significant influence on the overall safety and perception of safety within the community. The issue of safety was of central importance for a number of groups. Planning of new infrastructure and to a lesser extent upgrading existing infrastructure presents opportunities to address safety concerns by incorporation of safer by design principles at the design stage of most projects.

Infrastructure Issues in Established Areas

The resident population in Established Areas makes up 75% of the total LGA population and therefore LGA wide research to a large extent reflects the views of residents of Established areas. The project Audit Report produced in 2002 also clearly showed that the majority of community infrastructure, including community centres and halls, recreation facilities and services as well as health and education facilities are located in Established areas. Infrastructure located in Established areas is therefore meeting the demands for some services for the whole population of the LGA, rather than residents of Established areas alone. Demand and adequacy of particular services and facilities therefore needs to be considered in this light in relation to infrastructure located within Established Areas.

The report specifically addresses the following issues for which Council has direct responsibility for provision:

Parks and open space

Parks and open space are one of the key infrastructure components that determine the character of Penrith LGAs urban areas. They are highly valued as contributors to the 'semi rural' character of the LGA as well as their importance as facilities for active and passive recreation. In Established areas there has been little increase in provision of open space in the past 10 years and the project survey results indicate the view that there has been a decline in the quality of the open space available in Established areas. The need for improvement of parks and recreation areas was highlighted in the project survey as one of the highest priorities for improvement in Established areas. This finding was reinforced in focus groups and workshops where participants emphasised the need for these areas to be well maintained and safe. Residents in Established areas in particular, reported having least access to recreation and open space. They also reported that parks in their areas lacked adequate facilities, equipment and landscaping which made them less attractive to use. Clearly residents in Established areas are least satisfied with the adequacy of provision of parks and open space.

Sporting venues

Much of the research reinforced the need for improvement of infrastructure related to sporting venues located within Established areas in particular footpaths and cycle ways which would improve access to sporting facilities. The main user groups of sporting

facilities were the under 25-age cohort. These are also the groups most likely to use public transport, cycleways or footpaths to reach these facilities. The lack of safe and accessible cycleways and footpaths was highlighted as one of the key reasons for:

- Families reliance on private vehicles to transport children and young people to sporting activities;
- Lack of access to sporting facilities by people with a disability.

Residents in Established areas reported the lowest level of satisfaction with access to sporting venues generally suggesting again that while sporting venues existed the quality of those located in Established areas was lower than that of facilities in newer areas. Upgrade and maintenance of sporting venues and improvement of travel linkages are therefore high priorities in Established areas.

Cultural and arts facilities

Access to Cultural and Entertainment facilities and services was viewed as important by 72% of residents in Established areas. The importance of cultural and arts facilities increased by age group reflecting participation rates reported in the project survey which also showed increasing levels of participation in art and craft activities as well as attendance at exhibitions and the like. Access to cultural and arts facilities is likely to become increasingly important for residents in Established communities in future as the profile ages. This group in particular are also more likely than other age groups to be reliant on public transport which means that provision of public transport linkages to and within Established areas as well as pedestrian networks is also likely to become increasingly important.

Footpaths and cycleway

Footpaths and cycleways were identified as one of the most important infrastructure needs within Established areas. The existing system of footpaths and cycleways are seen as being indirect and unpleasant to use by a large proportion of the population but particularly in Established areas.

The ageing of the Penrith population as well as the need to provide what are described as universal design facilities and services also must be considered in future provision of footpaths and pedestrian access ways. Upgrading and construction of new pathways needs to ensure these are adequate to deal with an increasing level of use by the general population as a significant passive recreation activity. Also the increasing mobility of people using a range of individual motorised transport options presents the need to revise current standard footpath design. With these factors in mind, width and surfacing of paths and cycleways will need to be revised to meet these emerging needs.

Public landscaping

In Established areas public landscaping was a significant factor in people's assessment of the amenity of their neighbourhood. The likelihood of their using particular facilities such as parks, open space and playgrounds was strongly influenced by the quality and character of the associated public landscaping. Council currently does not maintain information specifically relating to public landscaping and with the exception of the Great River Walk

has not initiated any formal mapping or planning of landscaped areas. Comprehensive mapping of landscaped areas alone will not necessarily advance the provision of high quality open spaces. Since landscaped space plays such an important role in people's perception of the amenity and quality of neighbourhoods and in particular facilities such as parks, open space, pedestrian and cycleways, public landscape further planning and provision of public landscaping areas needs to be conducted in parallel to planning for open space, pedestrian and cycleways within established areas.

Lighting in public places

The research conducted for this project does indicate that the community in Established areas views the need for public lighting primarily in terms of improving road safety and personal safety in public spaces. Provision of adequate lighting was viewed as a key component in ensuring that public areas were safe and were perceived as being safe. The majority of these facilities and services are located within Established areas making the provision of lighting in these locations primarily a concern for Established areas but one which will impact on how these areas are used by the wider LGA community.

Roads and traffic management

Residents in Established areas in particular highlighted the need for roads which were better able to cope with the increased volume of traffic generated by continued development. Emphasis was placed on the need for:

- Adequate feeder roads in and out of residential areas
- Upgrade of existing neighbourhood roads to cope with continued increased demand resulting from increased density in residential development
- Safety of roads given the accelerated deterioration as a result of increased use
- Management of the impact of through traffic generated by new release areas.

Community centres and halls

This study focused on the role community centres and halls play in provision of recreation, cultural and sporting services. It should however be noted that these were not the primary purposes for development of these centres and halls. Community centres and halls have traditionally been planned to provide a base for a range of services to residents within their catchment areas. The project survey results showed that residents in Established areas rated their access to community centres lowest of all facilities canvassed. While needs in particular areas differed there were several consistent themes in regard infrastructure needs for these facilities:

- Community facilities should be well located. Ideally facilities should be adjacent to other neighbourhood and district services such as shops, sports and recreation facilities or schools.
- Facilities should be easily accessible by public transport, pedestrian pathways and private vehicle ensuring maximum access.
- Facilities must have adequate storage space for individual community groups.

- Facilities should be physically accessible.
- Management of facilities should be inclusive of the local community.
- The cost of use to individuals and groups should not be prohibitive.

Bus stops

The pedestrian networks proposed in this report aim to promote access and link recreation facilities and services throughout the LGA. Placement of bus stops at strategic points within this network would therefore promote this overall aim. The study recommends two tiers of bus stop. Permanent bus stops which are placed strategically within the broad pedestrian network and which ensure consistent links with bus services and semi permanent bus stops which can be relocated within urban areas in response to changing demand.

Libraries

Provision of Library services has been a traditional role of local government in NSW and in Penrith which have been classified as part of the overall Recreation and Cultural infrastructure of the area. The results of consultation and survey research indicate that residents in Established areas are satisfied with the current levels of library services provision within the LGA.

Trunk Drainage

The updated version of the Penrith Plans for our Future – People’s Lifestyle, Aspiration and Needs Study produced in mid 2003 noted that Council was in the process of mapping existing drainage and infrastructure for the LGA. Details of drainage infrastructure were therefore unavailable to this study.

Conclusion

The key infrastructure issue in Established areas is therefore not infrastructure and service provision levels but the standard and capacity of existing facilities and services. The strategies proposed in this report aim to promote progressive auditing of infrastructure and improve co-ordinated provision of facilities and services in order to meet identified community priorities.

Infrastructure and General Service Strategies

The Recreation and Cultural Needs Strategy, conducted as part of the PLANS project has focuses in detail on development of strategies in relating to:

- Parks and open space
- Sporting venues
- Cultural and arts facilities
- Community centers and halls
- Libraries

The strategies listed below deal with the remaining infrastructure issues discussed in this section only.

Issue	Research	Consultation	Proposed Strategy	Proposed Actions
1. Integrated open space, facility and pedestrian network	<p>Passive recreation was the dominant activity for all groups.</p> <p>Access to multiple services and facilities for families was identified as a key weakness in provision.</p>	<p>Demand for pedestrian and cycle access between facilities and commercial precincts was highlighted in focus groups and surveys.</p> <p>Demand for playground style activity areas within walking distance of residences was identified through focus groups and the aspirational survey.</p>		<p>Detailed actions in relation to this strategy are contained in the Recreation and Cultural Strategy.</p>
2. Footpaths and cycleways	<p>High demand for footpaths and cycleways as passive recreation facilities.</p> <p>High demand for direct, safe and pleasant pedestrian links between major commercial, social and recreation facilities.</p> <p>High demand for direct, safe and pleasant pedestrian links between residences and district commercial, social and recreation facilities.</p>	<p>Focus group and workshop feedback highlighted demand for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct and safe footpaths and cycleways; • Better linkages between facilities and services and pedestrian access routes. 	<p>Develop an integrated pedestrian network linking major and district shopping facilities as well as major recreation facilities and services across the LGA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify existing pedestrian linkages between commercial and recreation facilities and services. • Identify gaps in the pedestrian and cycleway linkages. • Prepare a detailed schedule which addresses existing gaps. • Prepare a detailed upgrade schedule which ensures that associated open space and landscaping focuses on improvement of the amenity and safety of pedestrian linkages identified.

Issue	Research	Consultation	Proposed Strategy	Proposed Actions
<p>3. Public Landscaping</p>	<p>Quality of public landscaping is a key factor in community views on adequacy of open space.</p> <p>Quality and design of public landscape influences safety in public spaces, pedestrian cycleway corridors.</p> <p>Provision of public landscaping in residential and commercial areas is a key defining factor of the character of the Penrith LGA.</p>	<p>Focus groups and workshops indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A view that public landscaping in established areas was inadequate particularly in parks and public open spaces. • Public landscaping was a key factor in peoples views about the quality of their neighbourhood and locality. 	<p>Improve overall provision and quality of public landscaping within established areas.</p>	<p>Conduct an audit and map existing public landscaping within citywide and district pedestrian and cycleway corridors.</p> <p>Develop a set of design criteria for public landscaping projects which consider maximizing safety, mitigation of noise, air pollution and minimization of traffic impacts on pedestrian areas.</p> <p>Draft a schedule for construction, upgrade and/or maintenance of public landscaped areas with –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial, social and recreation facilities at citywide and district levels • Pedestrian and cycleway corridors identified at citywide district levels.
<p>4. Lighting in public places</p>	<p>The presence of adequate lighting in public places including commercial, social and recreation is a key factor in community perceptions of safety in these areas and hence usage of public space.</p>	<p>The need for adequate lighting in public places including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penrith CBD and district shopping facilities; • Public transport interchanges and bus stops; • Meeting and gathering places which have been highlighted as a safety priority through workshops and focus groups. 	<p>Promote greater use of public places through establishment of improved lighting in these areas.</p>	<p>Develop a set of design criteria for lighting of public places which maximizes safety. These criteria should be based on or lend from Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. These should be applied to all new projects involving provision of lighting.</p> <p>Identify priorities for audit of key commercial, social and recreation areas.</p> <p>Conduct audits and map adequacy of lighting in public places within Penrith LGA.</p>

Issue	Research	Consultation	Proposed Strategy	Proposed Actions
5. Roads and traffic management.	<p>Inadequacy of the existing road network to cope with the current level of traffic within the LGA was viewed as a key concern for Penrith residents throughout the research. Issues identified as a priority were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeder roads into residential reas; • Upgrade of neighbourhood roads to cope with increased demand; • Safety of roads. 	<p>Focus groups highlighted traffic congestion as major issues of concern in established areas.</p> <p>Workshops noted concern about the impact of development of new release areas on road conditions and traffic management in established areas.</p> <p>Increased use of public transport was identified as one strategy to address traffic congestion within the LGA.</p>	Improve roads and traffic management	<p>That the specific roads and traffic issues identified during the study be reviewed and considered by Council including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey tables; • Workshop comments. <p>Investigate strategies to promote alternative transport to private vehicles.</p>
6. Bus Stops	<p>Information regarding provision, maintenance and design of bus stops is required to ensure equitable access to bus services within established areas.</p>	<p>The need for improved public transport infrastructure was highlighted during focus groups and workshops. While bus stops were not specifically highlighted they are a crucial component in provision of public transport services.</p>	Promote increased use of public transport services.	<p>Develop a set of criteria to allow classification of bus stop locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent bus stop locations which complement integrated pedestrian networks; • Transitory locations which can move in response to local demand. <p>Develop design criteria for Permanent bus stop locations which allow relocation of infrastructure.</p>

Issue	Research	Consultation	Proposed Strategy	Proposed Actions
<p>7. Plan and provide gathering and meeting places.</p>	<p>The importance of a friendly, social neighbourhood environment is the most highly valued characteristic of the Penrith LGA.</p> <p>Provision and design of infrastructure plays a crucial role in providing appropriate space for people to socialise informally and formally.</p> <p>Increasingly private providers are designing infrastructure which deters opportunities for people and particular groups to meet.</p>	<p>Major and district commercial and shopping centers have a key role as meeting and gathering places.</p> <p>Focus groups and workshops highlight the need for public spaces which promote neighbourhood interaction.</p>	<p>Maintain and promote ‘friendly neighbourhood’ atmosphere through design of neighbourhood commercial and community spaces.</p>	<p>Develop a definition of meeting and gathering places which considers the specific groups including: women, families, youth, older people, ATSI, NESB.</p> <p>Develop a set of design criteria which promote provision of meeting and gathering spaces within the Penrith CBD and district shopping and commercial spaces which can be applied to development and upgrade of facilities within established areas and potentially the wider LGA.</p>
<p>8. Shopping centers</p>	<p>District shopping centers and the Penrith CBD are a key infrastructure component in people’s definition of their community. They provide a social focus as well as providing basic commercial services.</p> <p>Having good access to district shopping centers was one of the highest criteria for people in their choice of neighbourhood.</p> <p>The importance of physical safety and physical accessibility were also key requirements.</p>	<p>In-depth interviews identified the need for shopping centers to have –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate car parking; • Pleasant landscaping; • Areas to sit, meet and talk; • Cover from weather extremes. 	<p>Promote community interaction through design of public spaces associated with shopping centers.</p>	<p>Develop a set of design criteria for new development and redevelopment of shopping centers which aim to ensure that these centers provide a social, commercial and recreation focus for users.</p> <p>These should in the first instance focus on –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising the amenity of the center and promoting opportunities for meeting and gathering; • Maximising safety through implementation of Crime Prevention design principles or CPTED. <p>Co-ordinate design of shopping centers with strategies relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpaths and cycleways • Public landscaping • Public lighting

Issue	Research	Consultation	Proposed Strategy	Proposed Actions
9. Infrastructure Design	<p>Study Audit found a range of facilities which were physically inaccessible including: community centers, sporting facilities, neighbourhoods and CBD commercial areas and parks.</p> <p>Demographic profile highlighted the increasing aging of the population and therefore the likely increase in demand for accessible services.</p>	<p>Focus group and workshop feedback identified the need for upgrade and design of new facilities, which would maximize access for residents with a range of mobility and capabilities.</p>	<p>Promote the design and development of infrastructure, facilities and services that accommodates the broadest possible spectrum of human ability.</p>	<p>Investigate the potential development of a Centre of Excellence in Universal Design, in partnership with others.</p>