



Community Discussion Paper

Clarence Open Space Strategy 2026



City of
Clarence

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INTRODUCTION

City of Clarence is developing a new Open Space Strategy that will guide how we plan, design, manage and invest in parks, reserves, and other open spaces across Clarence for the next 20 years. This Community Discussion Paper (**Discussion Paper**) has been produced to provide information about the development of the Strategy and aims to invite discussion on important issues and opportunities that will help shape it.

Open space means different things to different people. It might be your local playground, a walking track along the foreshore, a quiet bush reserve, or your local beach. Whatever it is, we want to hear what matters to you, and how we can make Clarence's open spaces better and more sustainable into the future.

We know that great open spaces build healthy, connected and resilient communities. But they don't happen by accident. They require good planning, strategic investment, and, most importantly, local knowledge.

This Discussion Paper outlines some of the challenges, trade-offs, and opportunities that we'll need to navigate together. For each topic, we'll ask you some questions to help us better understand your values, preferences, and ideas.

How to read this discussion paper

This Discussion Paper is designed to inform and inspire conversation. It's not a policy document or a draft strategy, it's a conversation starter. It gives you the background information you need, outlines the key issues we're exploring, and invites your thoughts and ideas, which you can then provide to us as part of our engagement with the community.

You can read it in two ways:

- Front to back – if you want to understand the full context and explore each issue in detail.
- Topic by topic – if you prefer to focus on the parts that matter most to you.

What you'll find inside:

- A clear explanation of what open space is and why it matters.
- Background on City of Clarence's role and how open space in Clarence is planned and delivered.
- A summary of what we've heard from the community so far.
- Ten key issues we want to explore with you — each with context, examples, and questions.
- Details on how you can have your say.



You don't need to be a planner, a policy expert or a community advocate to participate.

If you use a park, visit a beach, walk a trail, or care about green space in your neighbourhood

we want to hear from you!

Tell us your thoughts - How to use this discussion paper to give feedback

During **June and July 2025**, City of Clarence is consulting with the community to gather the feedback and information that will help shape our Open Space Strategy. This Discussion Paper will provide you with information and topics to get you thinking about open space in Clarence that you can use and consider when you are giving us your feedback.

There's no one right way to respond to any of the issues or topics in this paper, just consider them as prompts to help shape your input into the Open Space Strategy.

For example, you might:

- think about them when completing our online community survey
- include your thoughts in a written submission
- include a note about them when adding comments to our interactive map
- discuss them with members of our project team at one of our pop-up consultation sessions
- use them as a conversation starter with your friends, neighbours, or a community group or sports club you are part of, and encourage others to share their views too.

Full details of how you can Have Your Say are available at

Your Say Clarence

www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au/open-space-strategy



Every bit of feedback helps us build a strategy that works for the whole Clarence community.

How to have your say

Visit www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au or scan the QR Code to take our learn more about the Open Space Strategy and have your say (or you can call us on 6217 9520 if you'd prefer to speak to someone).

There are multiple ways you can give us feedback during our consultation for the Open Space Strategy. You can:



Complete our survey

Our online survey lets you share your thoughts on the key issues raised in this Discussion Paper, as well as your own ideas, priorities and experiences.

You can complete it in under 10 minutes, or take your time and go deeper.

If you'd prefer to submit a hard-copy, you can collect one from Council chambers, or call us on 6217 9520 and we will send you one to complete.



Use the interactive map

Help us build a better picture of Clarence's open space network. Use our online mapping tool to:

- drop pins on your favourite places
- show us where improvements are needed
- suggest new connections or facilities.



Come and chat to us in person

We'll be holding several drop-in sessions across the city, at markets, events and key parks, where you can chat with City of Clarence staff, fill out the survey, and ask questions. The dates, times and locations of these will be published on our Your Say Clarence website and promoted to the community.



Send written feedback

Prefer to write us a letter or email? You can send written feedback to:

- Email: yoursay@ccc.tas.gov.au
- Post: Clarence City Council, PO Box 96, Rosny Park TAS 7018

Please include the subject line: "Open Space Strategy Discussion Paper Feedback".

PART 1 –

WHAT IS THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

What is the Clarence Open Space Strategy?

The Clarence Open Space Strategy (2026 – 2046) will be a city-wide plan that shapes how City of Clarence plans, delivers, protects and invests in open space over the next 20 years. It will help ensure our open spaces are vibrant, sustainable, strategic and inclusive.

What is Open Space?

“Open space” means different things to different people, and that’s part of what makes it so valuable.

For the Open Space Strategy and in this Discussion Paper, when we refer to “open space” we are talking about any land which is:

- publicly accessible
- owned or managed by Council, and
- set aside for recreation, relaxation, social connection, environmental protection, or community gatherings.

This includes parks, playgrounds, sports grounds, natural areas and other types other publicly accessible areas.

In this Discussion Paper, we sometimes talk open space generally, or, in some other cases, we refer directly to particular categories of open space (such as parks or playgrounds).



Why now?

Clarence is growing and changing. Some areas are growing rapidly, our population is becoming more diverse, and pressures on land, infrastructure and maintenance are increasing. At the same time, the community's expectations about what parks and open spaces should provide are also changing.

We need a clear, long-term plan to make sure our open space network evolves strategically, not reactively, and continues to meet the needs of current and future generations.



This Strategy will align with, and help to implement other important Council plans and strategies, including:

- City of Clarence Strategic Plan 2021–2031
- Active Living Strategy 2022 - 2042
- Natural Areas Strategy 2024 - 2034
- Inclusive Play Policy 2023
- Sports Facilities Strategic Plan 2025 - 2045 (under development)
- Coastal Access Strategy 2025 - 2045 (under development)
- future strategies that relate to strategic land use and infrastructure planning.



What will the Open Space Strategy do?



Types of open space?

Some spaces are designed for activity. Others for nature. Some are highly developed while others are left wild. Open space includes:

- **Parks and playgrounds** for play, exercise, barbecues and gatherings.
- **Sports fields** for organised sport, training and community events.
- **Natural areas** such as bushland, coastal reserves and biodiversity corridors.
- **Tracks and trails** for walking and cycling links in natural areas and between neighbourhoods.
- **Foreshore and beach** areas for walking, picnics and water access.
- **Civic spaces** such as town squares, plazas and streetscapes used for socialising or events.
- **Utility areas** that are designed for water management or other services such as stormwater, electricity or underground infrastructure.
- **Other spaces** that may serve many functions at once, for example, a foreshore trail that also protects dunes, hosts a playground, and provides picnic areas.

What's not open space?

In the Strategy, we're not talking about the following areas:

- private backyards
- school grounds (unless accessible to the public)
- Crown land, including state-owned reserves and national parks (unless managed by Council)
- road verges or utility corridors (unless purpose-built as open space).

While all land contributes to a city's feel and function, the Strategy focuses only on land that is publicly accessible, owned or managed by council and generally set aside for recreation or similar uses.



What makes great open space?

Great open spaces don't just happen, they're the result of good planning, strong community insight, and thoughtful design. Across Australia and beyond, we know that successful open spaces tend to share a few key traits. Great open spaces are:



Accessible

Easy to reach by foot, bike, mobility aid or public transport.



Inclusive

Welcoming for all ages, backgrounds and abilities.



Safe and inviting

With good lighting, visibility, and comfort.



Flexible

Used in different ways by different people, across the day and year.



Connected

Linked to homes, neighbourhoods and other destinations.



Environmentally responsive

Adapted to climate, topography and local character.



Well maintained

Clean, functional and cared for over time.



Great open space doesn't need to be big or expensive, it just needs to be **well designed, well located, and well used.**

And most importantly, great open space is shaped by the people who use it.

What is City of Clarence's role in open space planning

City of Clarence plays a central role in shaping, delivering and maintaining the city's open space network. This includes everything from local playgrounds and sportsgrounds to bushland reserves, civic areas and foreshore trails.

Open space is one of the most valued services we provide, but it also involves complex planning, management and long-term investment.

In providing open space for the community, City of Clarence is responsible for:

- planning the location, type and function of new parks and open spaces in growing neighbourhoods
- designing and delivering upgrades to existing parks, reserves and recreational facilities
- maintaining public open space to keep it clean, safe, accessible and fit for purpose
- protecting and restoring natural areas and biodiversity corridors
- managing competing uses (e.g. sport vs dog walking, conservation vs recreation)
- engaging with the community to ensure open space reflects local needs and values.



Why does open space matter?

Open space is where:

- children learn to play and explore
- people walk, ride, sit, stretch, kick a ball or meet friends
- communities gather for events, barbecues or peaceful moments
- nature is protected, appreciated and restored
- it's where cities breathe. And it's for everyone.

About Clarence's open space network

Clarence has one of the most diverse and expansive open space networks in Tasmania.

Across the city you'll find everything from district level play parks and sporting precincts, to local playgrounds, foreshore reserves, bushland walking trails, and open parklands. These spaces support everything from weekend sport and dog walking to quiet nature exploration, community events, and everyday moments of connection.

While many of these places are well-loved and well-used, the way they are provided across our network is not always consistent, connected, or equitable. Some suburbs have excellent access to high-quality open space, while others rely on smaller, isolated parks that may be poorly located, under-equipped, or difficult to maintain.



Clarence has around

486 open space areas

covering parks, natural areas, trail corridors and more.



Some of the strengths of Clarence's network include:

- access to natural coastal landscapes, beaches and foreshore trails
- a strong network of natural areas and reserves, offering environmental and recreational value
- a growing collection of district level play parks and sports facilities
- a mix of urban and semi-rural spaces that offer unique recreation opportunities.



But there are also some well-known challenges:

- many suburbs contain small, lower-quality "pocket parks", which are often located on land parcels that may be more suited to other uses
- there is no clear or consistently applied hierarchy, making it difficult to plan upgrades or prioritise investment
- some communities lack access to safe, appealing, and inclusive spaces within walking distance of home
- the ongoing maintenance burden of ageing and low-value parks is increasing, with limited resources available to address it.

These issues are not unique to Clarence but they do highlight the need for a cohesive, city-wide approach to open space planning.

A network-wide view

The Open Space Strategy is about more than just upgrading individual parks. It's about taking a long-term, strategic view of how open spaces function as a connected network and how that network serves a growing and changing population.

What we're thinking about

- **Access and equity** — who can get to high-quality open space, and who can't?
- **Diversity of experience** — do our parks support a wide range of users, activities and needs?
- **Environmental resilience** — how can open space help us adapt to climate change and protect biodiversity?
- **Sustainability and smart investment** — how do we deliver quality spaces that are affordable to maintain?
- **Community identity and pride** — how can open space help shape great places to live?

The Open Space Strategy will provide the framework for answering these questions and your feedback is a critical step in that process.

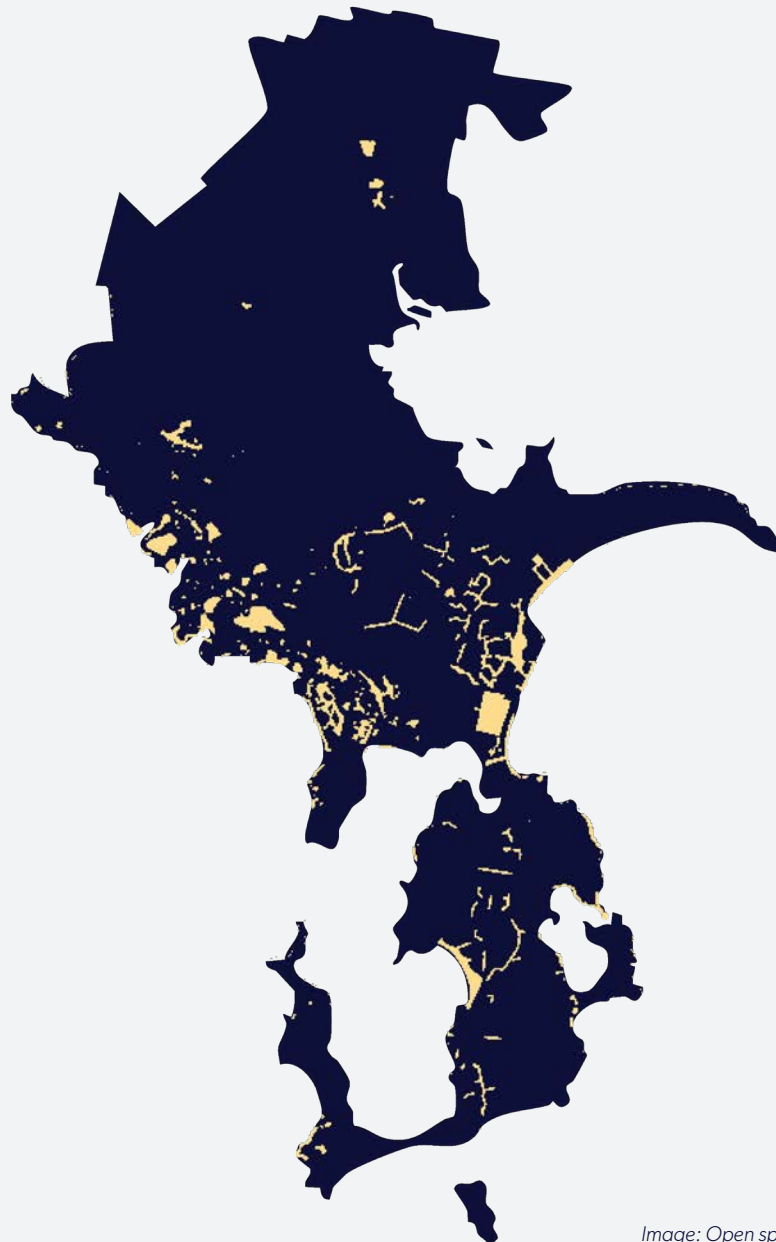


Image: Open space owned or managed by City of Clarence

How this strategy fits into our strategic framework

The Open Space Strategy is not a stand-alone document, it is one part of a broader vision for a **liveable, inclusive and well-planned Clarence**.

City of Clarence's **Strategic Plan 2021–2031** sets the high-level direction for the city. It outlines the following long term vision:



Clarence - a vibrant, prosperous, sustainable city.

The Strategic Plan sets the following key goals for Clarence:

- **A people friendly city** – Clarence values diversity and encourages equity, inclusiveness and accessibility. We aspire to create high quality public places for all people to live actively, engage socially and enhance our health and wellbeing.
- **A well-planned liveable city** – Clarence will be a well-planned liveable city with services and infrastructure to meet current and future needs of our growing and vibrant community.
- **A prosperous and creative city** – Clarence encourages creativity, innovation and enterprise and will develop the local economy by enabling opportunities for all people.
- **An environmentally responsible city** – Clarence is environmentally responsible, valuing and protecting the natural environment for a sustainable and liveable future.

The Open Space Strategy will **help deliver these goals** by ensuring Clarence's open space network is well-managed, strategically planned and equitably distributed.



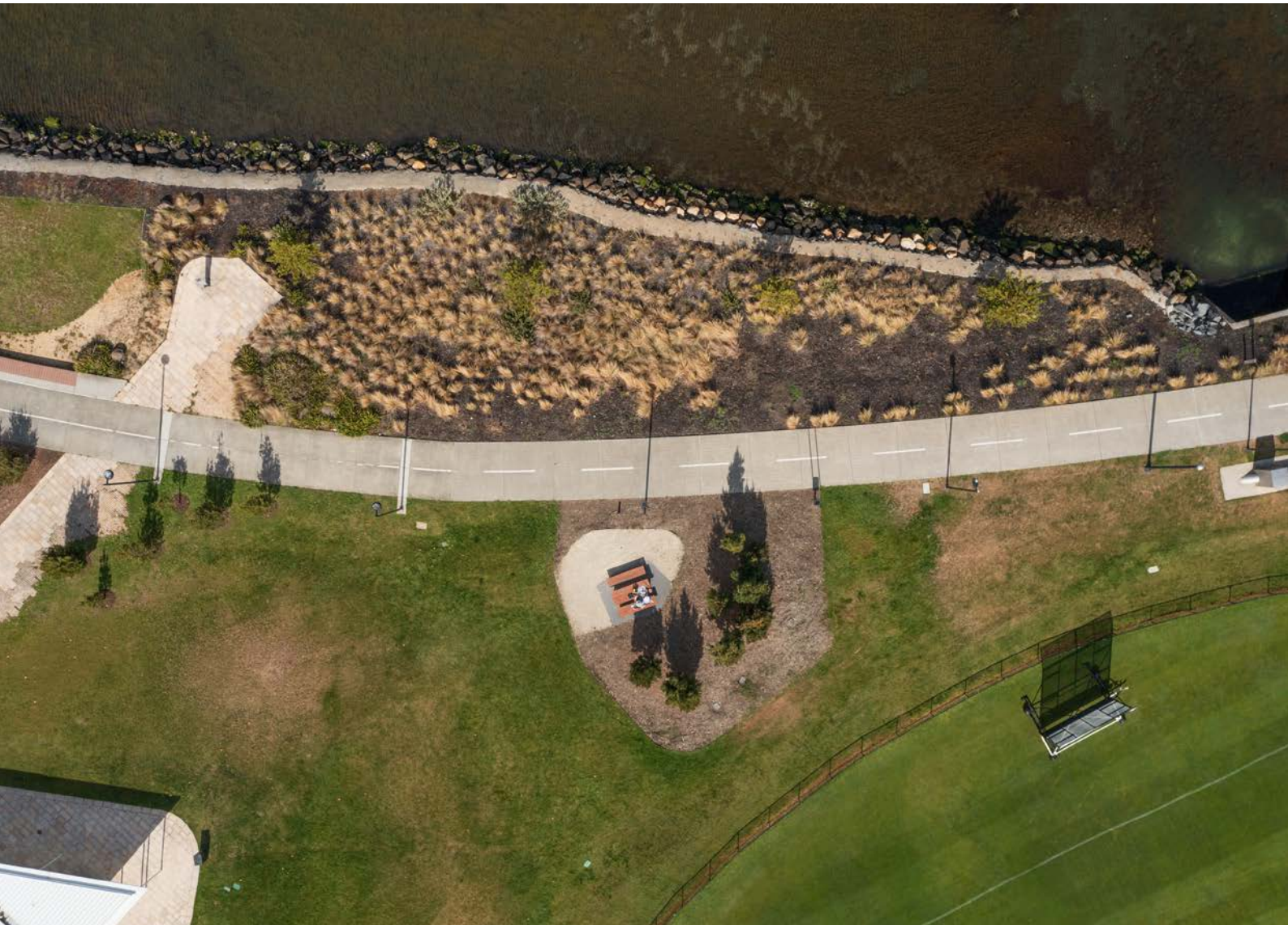
How it aligns with other strategic documents

The Open Space Strategy will support the implementation of the **Active Living Strategy 2022 – 2032** which sets out our plan for promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles in Clarence.

It is also also relevant to the achievement of the objectives in various other council plans and policies, including:

- **Natural Areas Strategy 2024 - 2034** which protects and manages bushland, coastlines and biodiversity reserves across Clarence
- **Inclusive Play Policy 2023** which establishes design priorities to ensure all play spaces are accessible and inclusive for all ages and abilities.
- **Coastal Access Strategy** and **Sports Facilities Strategic Plan**, both of which are still being developed and will be released for community feedback later in 2025.

By linking to these other strategies, the Open Space Strategy will help Clarence grow in a way that is sustainable, inclusive, connected and community led.



PART 2 –

COMMUNITY INPUT – WHY YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS

Community consultation – a conversation about open space

Creating a great open space network takes more than technical analysis and expert planning, it takes a deep understanding of what matters to the people who live, work and play in Clarence.

That's why your feedback is such an important part of this project.

The Open Space Strategy will guide how the City of Clarence plans, develops, maintains and invests in public open space over the next 20 years. To make sure it reflects the needs of our growing and changing community, we're asking for your input, not just on specific parks or suburbs, but on the bigger picture. Things like:



**What makes
a park or
open space
great?**

**What
should we
prioritise?**

**What's missing,
what's working,
and what needs
to change?**

Your views will be combined with other important information, including:

- spatial analysis of where open space is well or poorly-served
- mapping of park quality, access and provision
- best practice examples from other cities
- our budget, responsibilities and future planning work.

Together, these inputs will shape a draft Open Space Strategy that's both guided by community insight and also grounded in evidence, based on Clarence's current network, natural features and other features unique to us.

What we've heard so far - Insights from the Park Life Survey

City of Clarence began community engagement for the Open Space Strategy in late 2024 by partnering with the Park Life Survey to gather preliminary data about the use of parks and open space in Clarence that we could compare to other cities across Australia. Park Life is an Australia-wide research initiative which helps local governments understand how people use and value public parks and open spaces, and how those spaces can better meet the needs of their communities.

Led by the Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) at the University of Western Australia, in partnership with the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN), the Park Life Survey collects rich, comparable data from across the country. For Clarence, this partnership allows us to understand not only what our community needs but also how we compare to other regions in terms of park access, use, and satisfaction.

Community participation and response

The Park Life Survey ran in Clarence from 30 September to 22 November 2024, with strong participation from across the municipality.



Park Life



Clarence is one of only a handful of Councils in Tasmania to participate in the national Park Life Survey, allowing us to compare how our community uses and values open space with other places across the country.



A total of
193 responses

were received, covering a range of age groups, life stages, and household types.



Respondents represented

every suburb in Clarence,

with diverse views on park use, satisfaction, and needs.



What We Learned from Park Life

The results of the Park Life Survey have helped us better understand:



Why people use parks

Most commonly for walking, relaxing, or taking children to play.



What features people value

Shade, seating, clean amenities, and natural features were rated highly.



Barriers to use

Distance, lack of facilities, and perceptions of safety were recurring themes.



The emotional and physical benefits of parks

Many respondents linked park use to better mental health and a sense of community.

Compared to national averages:

- Clarence residents are more likely to visit parks close to home and use them more frequently.
- satisfaction levels are generally in line with national trends, but gaps in access and quality were more pronounced in outer suburbs.

Respondents also told us that:

- they want fewer, but better parks with quality facilities and inclusive design.
- some areas lack safe and accessible paths to open space.
- there's strong demand for more diverse activities, from quiet contemplation to nature play, fitness, or dog recreation.



What we learned from Park Life and how it will influence this round of consultation

The Park Life Survey was the first phase of our engagement with the community around the Open Space Strategy. The findings have directly informed this second phase of community engagement including the Discussion Paper you're reading now.

In this next phase of consultation, we're building on what we've already heard by asking more detailed questions:

- What kinds of parks and open spaces matter most to you?
- What trade-offs are you willing to consider?
- How can we make open space planning more inclusive, strategic, and future-focused?

We're also using other data sources like spatial analysis, current land use planning, and other expert advice to bring all of this together into a draft Open Space Strategy.

Future consultation – feedback on the draft Open Space Strategy

The consultation we are undertaking in June and July 2025 will complete the preliminary stages of our consultation process.

After this round of engagement closes, we will use your feedback, along with our other research and the Park Life Survey results, to develop a draft Open Space Strategy.

That draft will be released later this year for further community consultation. You'll have the opportunity to see the full Open Space Strategy and how community feedback has been combined with the results of our research and investigation to deliver a long-term strategy for Clarence. We'll be asking questions like:



**Did we get
it right?**



**Is anything
missing?**



**Are there changes
you'd like to
see before we
finalise it?**



We want the Open Space Strategy to not just reflect expert insight but and best practice, but actual lived experience. That's why your feedback is so important.



PART 3 –

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Conversation starters – things to think and talk about

As we plan for the future of open space in Clarence, it's important to recognise that there are no simple answers, just good conversations, informed trade-offs and better ways to plan.

This section outlines **ten key issues** that have been identified through previous community feedback, staff experience, and strategic planning work. These are not final decisions, nor do they represent Council's actual plans or policy positions. They are **conversation starters**, designed to prompt thought and spark discussion about what matters most.

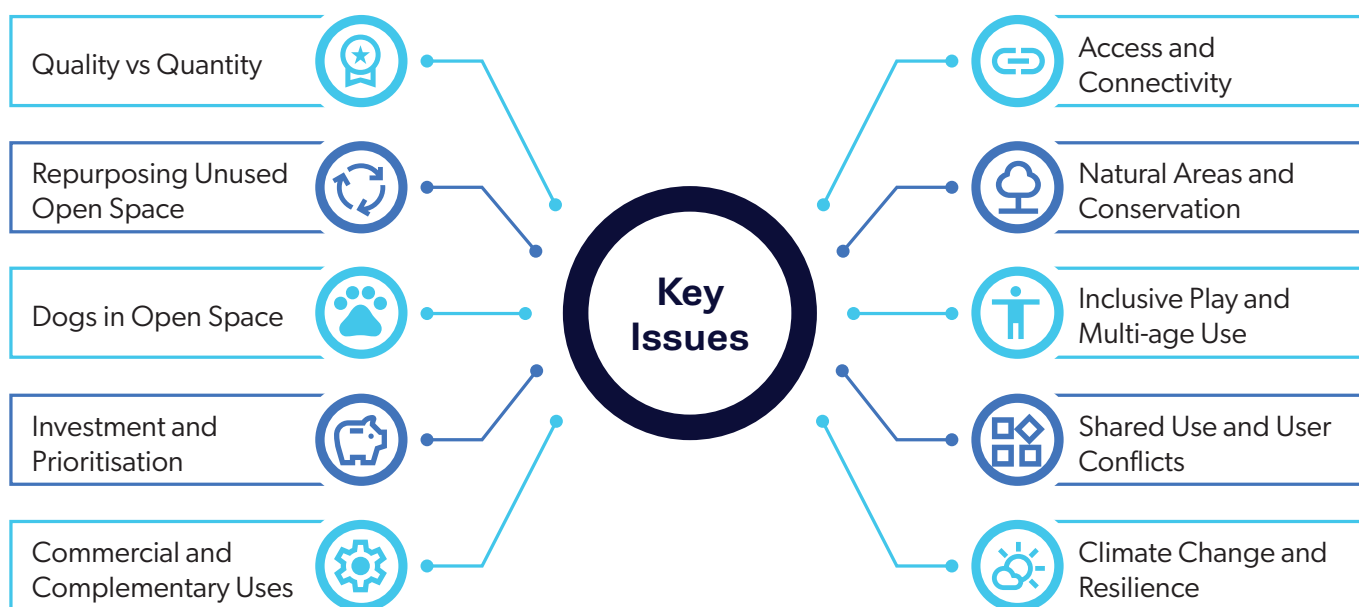
Each issue reflects a real-world challenge for Clarence that the Open Space Strategy will need to respond to. Some involve balancing competing needs while others explore how we manage resources, prioritise investment, or adapt to changing expectations.

You may agree with some, disagree with others, or see things differently altogether.

We want to hear your thoughts, your values, and your ideas. The Open Space Strategy will be stronger for it.

For more information on how to have your say, visit the "How to have your say" section of this Discussion Paper (page 3) or visit www.yoursay.ccc.tas.gov.au

Key issues and discussion points





ISSUE 1: Quality vs Quantity – are too many parks holding us back?

Clarence has a many very small, local parks, especially in older residential areas. Some of these are what we call 'pocket parks' which are small areas of open space located on surplus land, with minimal or ageing facilities or play equipment. These parks are often loved by nearby residents, but are sometimes disconnected from walking paths and underused by the wider community. They are also costly to maintain and often don't receive the same amount of maintenance as other open space areas, based on the fact that they receive less use.

Meanwhile, there's growing interest in creating a better network of high-quality, well-equipped parks that serve broader neighbourhoods, especially in areas currently lacking good facilities.

The trade-off: Is there a place for small pocket parks in the future? Or should we instead focus our investment on a smaller number of better-designed, better-connected spaces?

Your thoughts



- Would you support phasing out some small, underused parks if it meant improving others?
- Is it more important to have a park close to home, or a better-quality park within walking distance or a short drive or bike ride?
- What makes a park feel useful, inviting or worth visiting?





ISSUE 2: Unused open space – when should it be let go?

Some parcels of open space across Clarence are not ‘fit for purpose’ in that they are poorly located, difficult to access, or have little recreational value. These areas might be internal blocks surrounded by back fences, cul-de-sac islands, or vacant land that Council has received through residential subdivision that has never been developed.

Maintaining these sites costs money and limits our ability to invest elsewhere. One idea is to identify truly surplus parcels of land that could be sold for residential development, with the funds reinvested into improving or purchasing fit for purpose public open spaces nearby.



Your thoughts

- Could (or should) City of Clarence consider selling surplus or low quality open space if provides little benefit?
- What conditions would need to be met if you were to support such an idea?
- What spaces do you think could be repurposed or sold? Alternatively, are there any that you think should not?



CASE STUDY

Glenorchy City Council’s land sales program

Glenorchy City Council has successfully implemented a program of selling surplus public land to fund other projects that directly benefit the community.

This is done through a clear and transparent process that identifies underused parcels that are no longer needed for Council operations or public use. Each site is assessed for its strategic value and suitability for sale, with the community invited to provide feedback before any decision is made.

Land is sold through open market processes to ensure fairness, and proceeds are reinvested into infrastructure, public space upgrades, or other community priorities. The community is consulted from the earliest stage in investigation of a potential site, and the process does not proceed if any serious concerns are identified.

By taking a structured, policy-led approach, Glenorchy has turned unwanted land into a tool for delivering better outcomes.

Source: Glenorchy City Council – Land Sales Program (gcc.tas.gov.au)



Discussion Point:

Could a similar program work in Clarence? If you have any concerns about it, what measures or safeguards could be implemented that might change your view?

NOTE: If Council were ever to consider this option, it would apply only to parcels with low recreational or community value, such as those described above. We recognise that open space is a vital community asset and should only be repurposed or sold where there is a clear and demonstrated net benefit to the community.



ISSUE 3: Dogs in open space – designing for harmony

Dogs are a much-loved part of life in Clarence. They're companions, exercise buddies, and for many residents, a key reason to get out and use public open space. But dogs can also be a source of conflict, particularly when it comes to how parks are shared and how different needs are balanced.

Currently, Clarence has a mix of dog-friendly areas:

- Fenced, off-leash exercise and training areas at South Street Reserve, Bellerive, including separate dedicated areas for greyhounds and vulnerable dogs
- Several off-lead beaches and natural reserves (some of which are subject to restrictions on the times dogs are permitted)
- Many other open space areas where dogs are permitted off-lead but which are not fenced (for example, Anzac Park in Lindisfarne).

The rules around dogs in public space are shaped by the *Dog Control Act 2000* which limits how and where councils can allow dogs to be off-lead. This means regulation around dogs in public areas can be more about restriction than recreation, which doesn't always reflect how people actually use or enjoy public open space.



Did you know?

There are almost 10,000 registered dogs living in Clarence. That's around one dog for every six people!

We are committed to a more integrated, thoughtful and community-led approach to managing dogs in open space areas. Council's Dog Management Policy is due for review in 2026, but before that happens, we want to use this Strategy to start a more balanced and constructive conversation.

This is not a full review of dog access or rules, but it is a chance to begin thinking together about what works, what doesn't, and what possibilities exist. Findings from this and future planned consultation will help inform changes that could be recommended in the 2026 review of our policy.

Rethinking dog-friendly design

Managing dogs in public space isn't just about signs or restrictions, it's about design, planning and expectations. The question is no longer just "on-lead or off-lead?", it's about how we design spaces that support shared use, enjoyment and respect.

We also recognise that:

- **Not everyone likes dogs.** Some people feel unsafe around dogs and prefer to enjoy visiting public spaces without any interactions with dogs.
- **Environmental values need to be considered.** In environmentally sensitive areas, even the presence of dogs on lead can harm vulnerable flora and fauna. The needs of all users must be balanced with the protection of the environment.

There is no single or easy way to manage dogs in open spaces in way that works for everyone. But having an open and informed discussion is a good place to start!



Your Thoughts

- What experiences have you had, good or bad, when sharing public space with dogs?
- Would you support more fenced off-lead areas in Clarence? If so, where and why?
- What role should education, signage and design play in reducing conflict between users?
- Are there any creative ideas you've seen elsewhere that you'd like to see in Clarence?



Discussion Point:

City of Clarence is about to build a new off-lead dog park on disused land behind Cambridge Memorial Oval, which is expected to open in early 2026. The new park will have features like seating, water, bins, shaded areas and sensory zones.

However, the park is expected to cost up to \$1 million and will mostly provide benefits for people who own or care for dogs.

What other ways could we provide facilities that allow dogs to be safely exercised off lead in a cost-effective way that shares the benefits more widely?

We've provided some examples of what other cities do to get you thinking.



What Do Others Do?

Hobart

City of Hobart's use of sports fields

The City of Hobart allows dogs to be exercised off-lead on sports fields and surrounding areas when "sport is not being played or activities undertaken".

Brisbane

Integrating off-lead areas in urban parks

Brisbane City Council has established over 160 off-lead dog areas within its urban parks. These fenced zones provide a safe environment for dogs to exercise and socialise without impacting other park users.

By integrating these fenced areas within larger parks, Brisbane City Council balances the needs of dog owners with those of the broader community, promoting harmonious shared use of public spaces.

Adelaide

City of Onkaparinga's educational signage campaign

In South Australia, the City of Onkaparinga implemented an educational signage campaign across its off-lead dog parks to promote responsible pet ownership and safe interactions.

The signage categorises typical dog behaviours with labels like 'Nervous Nelly' and 'Pushy Polly', helping owners recognise and manage their dogs' interactions. This initiative fosters a safer and more enjoyable environment for all park users by encouraging owners to be more attentive and informed.





ISSUE 4: Investment and prioritisation – where should council spend its money?

Great parks cost money, not just to build, but to maintain, upgrade and renew over time. As costs increase and expectations rise, Council can't afford to upgrade every park at once.

Decisions need to be made about where investment is most needed.

Currently, suburbs like Bellerive, Rosny Park and Lindisfarne tend to have better access to high-quality parks. Other areas, including Rokeby, Clarendon Vale and Lauderdale, have fewer parks or parks with limited facilities.

Where do you think Council should focus its investment in parks and other open space areas the coming years? Would you like to see further investment in and upgrades to established parks, or the development of new parks and open spaces in areas that have less facilities?



Would you wait longer for better park upgrades in your area?



Your Thoughts

- Should we focus first on underdeveloped suburbs that need better parks?
- Is it more important to spread funding evenly, or invest where the greatest improvement is possible?
- What does a fair distribution of open space investment look like to you?





ISSUE 5: Commercial and complementary uses – can small businesses enhance parks?

In many parts of Australia, it's common to find small cafés, food vans, or equipment hire businesses located in or near parks. Done well, these activities can enhance the experience of visiting a park, adding vibrancy, improving safety, and encouraging longer stays.

But in Tasmania, this idea is still emerging, and some people worry that it could detract from the public nature of open space.

We want to test how the Clarence community feels about carefully managed commercial activity in or near parks.



What would you support?



Your Thoughts

- Would you support a coffee van or small kiosk in a major park?
- Are there places where commercial activities feel inappropriate?
- What conditions would need to be in place to make this work well?





ISSUE 6: Access and connectivity – how easy is it to reach a park?

Not everyone lives near a park, and even if they do, it's not always easy or safe to get there. In some areas, footpaths are missing, road crossings are dangerous, or the distance is just too far for some people to walk.

We want to ensure that more people can walk or ride to their local park, especially in neighbourhoods with limited transport access or higher needs.



Do you think every home in Clarence should be within a 10-minute walk of a park?



Your Thoughts

- How far is your nearest park, and how do you get there?
- What stops you from visiting parks more often?
- What would make your journey to a park safer or easier?





ISSUE 7: Natural areas and conservation – how should we use and protect our natural areas?

Clarence is home to incredible natural places, bushland reserves, coastal headlands, and foreshore corridors that support biodiversity and connect people to nature. But these areas are also facing increasing pressure from increased and inappropriate uses and urban sprawl.

We want to make sure our natural areas are accessible for low-impact recreation, while also protecting their ecological and cultural values.

Tracks and trails must be carefully designed to avoid sensitive habitats, and not all reserves are suitable for all uses.



What's your priority?



Your Thoughts

- Do you visit natural areas in Clarence? What draws you to them?
- Should some areas be kept more protected, even if that limits access?
- How can Council balance recreation, conservation and cultural values in bushland areas?





ISSUE 8: Inclusive play and multi-age use – are we designing parks for everyone?

Playgrounds are often seen as being “just for little kids”, but Clarence’s parks should offer opportunities for all ages and abilities to be active, social and connected.

Council’s Inclusive Play Policy guides the design of play spaces that are welcoming to everyone, including children with disability, teenagers, parents, and older adults. But many existing parks don’t yet meet that standard.



Inclusive doesn’t mean more equipment, it means more ways to play.



Your Thoughts

- Do you think your local park supports inclusive, multi-age play?
- What kinds of facilities would help older children, teens, adults or carers enjoy parks more?
- What makes a park feel welcoming to everyone, regardless of age or ability?



ISSUE 9: Shared use and user conflicts – how can we share our open spaces fairly?

As more people use open space for different purposes, from sport and events to dog walking, exercise, quiet reflection and nature play, conflicts can arise. Some spaces are overcrowded, while others are dominated by a single user group.

The Strategy will look at how to better plan, design and manage spaces so that everyone can feel welcome and avoid the feeling that they've been "pushed out."



Should parks do it all, or specialise?



Your Thoughts

- Have you ever felt uncomfortable using a park because of conflicts with other users?
- How do you think we should separate or create different use zones in open space areas?
- What would help make parks feel more shared and respectful?





ISSUE 10: Climate change and resilience – are our open spaces ready for the future?

Open space will play an important role in helping Clarence adapt to climate change, providing cool places during heatwaves, absorbing stormwater in heavy rains, and creating resilient green corridors.

But many parks were designed for a different era. With longer dry seasons, increased fire risk, and rising temperatures, we need to plan for the future.



**Cool Parks =
Healthy
Communities**



Your Thoughts

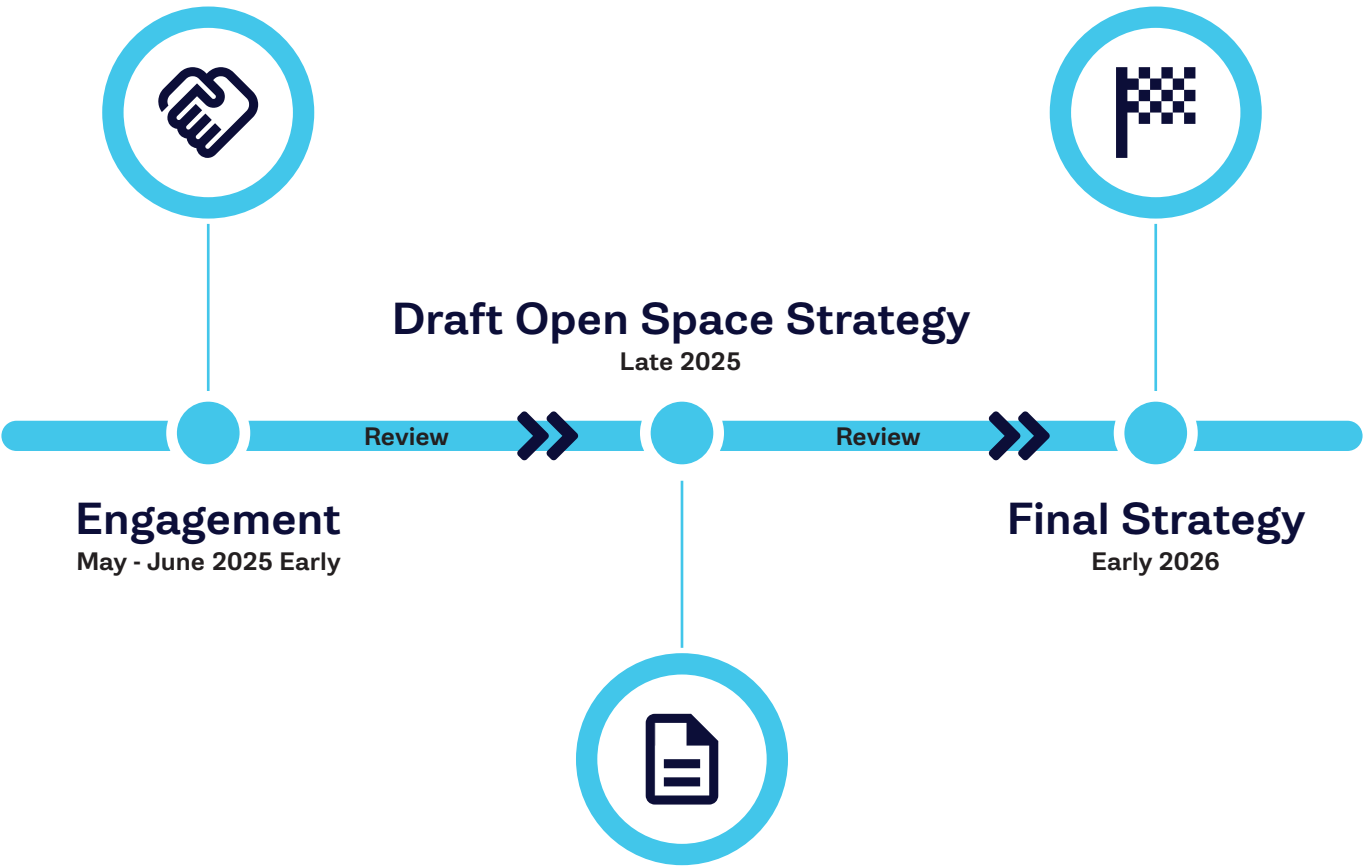
- What climate-related changes have you noticed in parks and reserves?
- Should Council prioritise shade, planting, and green infrastructure in new parks?
- Would you support fewer irrigated lawns in favour of more resilient native planting?



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After this round of consultation closes, we will:

- 1. review all community feedback
- 2. use it to help develop a draft Open Space Strategy
- 3. release the draft for further community consultation (likely in late 2025) before final adoption.



Who can I contact if I want more information?

Contact us for more information or to speak directly to someone in our project team:



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