2020 – 2041

Social and Cultural Infrastructure Framework

City of Ryde

Lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep

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Executive Summary

This Social and Cultural Infrastructure Framework has been developed to inform the City of Ryde's planning and delivery of social and cultural infrastructure in the Ryde local government area for the next 20 years.

Social and cultural infrastructure considered in this Framework incorporates:

» meeting and activity space for general community hire

» office and meeting space for community services, Not for Profit organisations and arts and cultural groups

» Early Childhood Education and Care facilities

» heritage buildings

» libraries

» youth services hub

» arts and cultural infrastructure including performance space, gallery space and other creative spaces.

Recommendations in this Strategy have been informed by:

» a review current City of Ryde community facilities policies, including recommendations for hall and facilities in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy,* and library spaces, provided in *Great Libraries Great Communities: Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan*

» relevant findings from a recent review of cultural facilities which informed the *Creativity Strategy*

» analysis of existing demographic characteristics and forecast population numbers

» relevant findings from recent community consultation conducted by the City of Ryde leading to the development of the *Creativity Strategy* and *Social Plan*.

This Framework recognises the current shortfall and inequitable distribution of community facilities across the City of Ryde, identified in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*. It also recognises a significant undersupply in library floorspace and insufficient sizes of the City of Ryde's branch libraries, from the *Great Libraries Great Communities: Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan*. The review of current cultural facilities which informed the *Creativity Strategy* has also been incorporated into the Framework, particularly the limited number of venues specifically designed for arts and cultural use in the City of Ryde.

Looking forward, this Frameworks recommends the following principles underpin the City of Ryde's planning for social and cultural facilities now and into the future:

» contributes to a sense of place

» connected to public transport, pedestrian and cycling networks

» universal design

» visible from the street of other public space

» designed to be used flexibly

» designed to maximise safety

» incorporates technology

» designed to be expanded and adapted to respond to changing community needs

» incorporates environmentally sustainable design

» are planned and delivered as part of a network

» are well located and clustered near a variety of other facilities, amenities and services

» incorporates accessible parking.

This Framework takes a catchment based approach to the planning and delivery of social and cultural infrastructure. Five catchments have been identified in the City of Ryde, based on findings from the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*. Catchment based planning enables a more equitable approach to the supply and distribution of community facilities across an LGA, as well as a recognition and consideration of the unique needs of numerous communities (place based planning). The five catchments (see page 23) and their key urban centres are:

»   **Western catchment:** key urban centres of Eastwood and West Ryde

»   **Ryde catchment:** key urban centre of Ryde

»   **Northern catchment:** key urban centre of Macquarie Park

»   **Southern catchment** key urban centre of Gladesville

»   **North Ryde**: key urban centre of North Ryde.

Future infrastructure planning should also be considered within the larger network of facilities, with each social and cultural infrastructure facility having its own role and function determined by the needs of the catchment. This Framework adopts a planning hierarchy within this network, comprised of:

»   **Regional level facilities:** Facilities of LGA wide or sub-regional significance, usually larger in size and serving a broad population catchment (100,000+)

»   **District level facilities:** Serving a catchment population (20,000 – 50,000 people)

»   **Local level facilities:** Serving a catchment of around 5,000 – 20,000 people

»   **Neighbourhood level facilities:** Servicing a population in close proximity (2,000 – 5,000 people).

This Framework provides recommendations for the regional infrastructure provision, as well as catchment infrastructure. In summary:

»   **LGA wide:** There are a number of facilities that will function as regional level facilities and therefore serve an LGA wide catchment, including:

> Ryde Central Regional arts and cultural space and District community centre space (new)

> Macquarie Park Creative Hub (new)

> Youth recreation and services hub (new)

> Ryde City Library (retained and expanded)

> West Ryde Regional community services hub (retained)

> Brush Farm House Regional community arts and cultural space (retained).

»   **Heritage:** The heritage value of existing heritage facilities is preserved, while be enabled to offer a complementary role in the network by having an ongoing role as licenced venues. With the exception of Old Eastwood Town Hall, heritage buildings should be used to provide space for arts and culture organisations.

»   **Early childhood education and care:** As recommended in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*, maintain existing early childhood education and care services currently located in Council's community facilities, and explore future opportunities to expand pre-school places.

»   **Child and family health services:** As recommended in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*, retain the West Ryde Early Childhood Centre and relocate and enhance the Marsfield Early Childhood Centre (to a new facility in the Northern Catchment) and the Ryde Early Childhood Centre (ideally with proposed Community Services Hub in Top Ryde).

This Framework also provides directions for proposed new facilities including approximate sizes, retained facilities and proposed redeveloped facilities and recommended timeframes for delivery in each catchment. These have been informed by plans in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*.

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The City of Ryde has recently undertaken considerable research, analysis and consultation about the future direction of its social and cultural infrastructure. The role of this document is to synthesise this work into one clear strategic framework for social and cultural infrastructure.

The aims of this document are to:

» provide a 20 year framework for the provision of social and cultural infrastructure in the City of Ryde, which is able to respond flexibly to opportunities as they arise

» understand and learn from national and international best practice

» provide direction for the future provision of social infrastructure that will be required to meet the needs of the City of Ryde community.

1.2 Scope

The focus of this framework is on Council's social and cultural infrastructure which includes:

» meeting and activity space for general community hire

» office and meeting space for community services, Not for Profit organisations and arts and cultural groups

» Early Childhood Education and Care facilities

» heritage buildings

» libraries

» youth services hub

» arts and cultural infrastructure including performance space, gallery space and other creative spaces.

This Framework also recognises the role that non-Council owned social and cultural infrastructure can play in meeting community needs. The framework does not consider recreation facilities and open space.

2 Understanding the existing policy context

Council has a large number of existing strategies, studies and plans which analyse community needs and aspirations for social and cultural infrastructure and provide recommendations for future provision. Council documents reviewed as part of this study include:

» *Our Vision for Ryde 2028 Community Strategic Plan*

» *Planning Ryde: Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement 2019*

» *Our Vision for Ryde 2028, Four Year Delivery Program 2019-2023: Including One Year Operational Plan 2019/20*

» *Ryde Property Strategy 2016*

» *City of Ryde Halls and Facilities Strategy 2020-2041,* Elton Consulting

» *Great Libraries Great Communities: Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan 2019-2024*

» *City of Ryde Social Plan 2019-2024*

» *Creativity Strategy 2019-2024*, which was informed by a review of Council's existing cultural facilities

» *Early Education and Care Study 2019* (preliminary findings)

» *Ivanhoe at Macquarie Park: Community Infrastructure and Recreation Demand Study 2018,* Communities plus

In addition, findings from consultation with youth and volunteers has been incorporated into this Framework.

The following summary identifies areas of strategic alignment and any directions that are relevant to this Framework.

Population growth and changing demographics

Many of Council's strategic documents discuss the challenges associated with population growth and the need to ensure services and facilities are able to meet the demands of the future population. These strategies identify the need to ensure services and facilities respond to the City's changing demographics, including an increase in older adults (more than 60%) as well as an increase in the number of children and teenagers (more than 40%) by 2041.

These documents also point to a significant proportion of young people (aged 18-24 years) in the City of Ryde attending a tertiary education institution (50%). This has implications for the types of social and cultural infrastructure required to meet the needs of the age group, such as providing free access to working spaces suitable for individual and small groups, user-friendly technologies (e.g. multi-port docking and charging points or projectors), as well as extended opening hours (which can require planning for 24-hour security entry to limited spaces in larger facilities).

Denser living is also identified as a trend that is likely to impact on services and facilities, with more people living in units, increasing demand on public spaces and local services. From 2011 to 2016, there were 4,200 new high density dwellings constructed in the City of Ryde, representing the majority of new developments. An increase in people living in high density means it will be even more important to provide well-located spaces that allow for events and functions, recreation, meeting friends and family and other activities outside the home.

Many strategies also point to the City of Ryde's rich cultural diversity (with around 50% of the population born overseas compared to 36.8% for Greater Sydney). Just over a quarter of this population is also newly arrived (27% arriving in the last 5 years). The main countries of origin are China, India and Korea, which are nominated as the home country for more than 50 per cent of all new arrivals (in the past five years). Among the newly arrived community, the majority are female, aged between 20-34 and highly educated.

Over the last 20 years, the number of non-English speakers has doubled and there is a growing number of Korean-speaking people who nominate lower English proficiency (1 in 3 speak English poorly). Over the past five years, there has been a substantial increase in younger children speaking a language other than English at home, particularly Asian languages (approximately 40%).

The City of Ryde *Community Strategic Plan* includes aspirations for the City of Ryde to be diverse and inclusive, with communities feeling engaged, connected and celebrated. Facilities and places for people to meet for activities and community events are considered essential to building an inclusive, cohesive community. It will also be important to plan and design halls and facilities to include the necessary spaces and amenities to accommodate a variety of community interests and needs.

In recent community consultation regarding Council's *Social Plan* and *Creativity Strategy* participating community members felt Ryde lacked a clear identity, and that creativity could support the development of a sense of place and belonging. Participating community members recognised that using creativity to foster identity would be particularly important in new communities, such as Macquarie Park.

Healthy, connected communities

The City of Ryde *Community Strategic Plan* outlines aspirations for the City of Ryde to be:

» an active and healthy city

» a connected and accessible city

» a diverse and inclusive city.

Council recognises that community spaces and places are critical for social wellbeing and connections. Previous consultation with the community regarding Council's existing cultural and community spaces identified that:

» existing spaces which facilitate community connection are highly valued, including community centres and halls

» there is a need for new community spaces to respond to population growth and enable connections

» in residential and commercial developments opportunities for new facilities and public spaces and parks should continue to facilitate community connections.

Outcomes from Council's *Social Plan* and *Creativity Strategy* engagement found Ryde's community perceived that community spaces and places were critical for social wellbeing and connections, including:

» existing spaces which facilitate community connection are highly valued, including community centres and halls

» there is a perceived need for existing spaces to be better utilised, and a need for new community spaces to respond to population

» development, opportunities for new facilities, as well as public spaces and parks should continue to facilitate community connections.

Creative communities

Currently, the creative and cultural sector is the tenth largest employer in Ryde LGA, and the eight largest generator of economic value.

Overall, 4,400 jobs are currently created by creative and cultural industries. The main industry sectors are referred to as 'embedded creatives', working within larger industries such as communications and media studies, business and management and accounting.

Most cultural and creative jobs are concentrated in Macquarie Park (66%). Other locations include Ryde, West Ryde and North Ryde.

In recent engagement for Council's *Creativity Strategy*, community members perceived that existing spaces and places for creating and sharing creativity were highly utilised and valued, yet limited in availability both in quantity and community access. Participating community members expressed there were a:

» limited number and variety of spaces available, some existing spaces already at capacity, others could be better utilised

» lack of studios to create work, lack of performance spaces, lack of spaces for larger groups to meet.

Suggestions to make creative and cultural spaces more available and accessible included:

» repurposing existing buildings and their spaces to accommodate creative and cultural activities

» making temporary spaces available in vacant buildings

» creating new purpose-built multipurpose facilities, which include spaces and places suitable for a diversity of creative and cultural activities (e.g. public gathering spaces, workshops and studios, etc).

Equitable, accessible and multi-use facilities

Another common theme throughout Council's strategic documents is the need to ensure easy and equitable access to Council's services and facilities – both in terms of physical access and in terms of availability of space.

A key direction of Council's *Community Strategic Plan* supports equitable access to diverse cultural spaces, places and opportunities for all sections of the community.

One of the guiding principles of the *Halls and Facilities Strategy* and the *Property Strategy* is for the City of Ryde to design and construct facilities that are flexible and capable of providing for a range of uses. This can allow for multiple users to access a facility at the same time, enabling greater access for more people to Council's spaces.

The Ryde *Library Service Strategic Plan* and the *Halls and Facilities Strategy* also provides directions for social and cultural infrastructure to be located in high use areas and centres where population is most concentrated and highly visible, accessible locations, close to public transport and parking.

Full accessibility in terms of physical design is also identified as integral to all of Council's facilities in order to support its diverse and ageing community.

Sustainable planning

The City of Ryde *Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement* sets Council's vision and planning priorities, as well as the actions Council will undertake to achieve them, over the next 20 years.

Council's 20 year vision for land use planning in the City of Ryde is:

'A liveable, prosperous and connected city, that provides our future needs while protecting nature and our history. A city with diverse and vibrant centres, our neighbourhoods reflect and service our residents and businesses. Our well-planned places enhance the health, wellbeing and resilience of our future community. They also foster innovation, equity, inclusion and resilience.'

Existing directions for halls and facilities and planned facilities

A number of Council's strategic documents, including the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*, *Property Strategy* and the *Library Service Strategic Plan*, include directions to new social and cultural infrastructure, as well as plans to retain and redevelop some of Council's existing infrastructure. In summary, these are:

» development of Ryde Central with regional arts and cultural space and community centre space

» expansion of Ryde Library into a larger City Library

» development of Macquarie Park Library and Creative Hub

» delivery of a district community centre space and community services space in the Northern area of the LGA

» delivery of a district community centre space and community services space in Eastwood

» expansion and possible relocation of Eastwood Library

» delivery of a local community centre space and community services space in Gladesville

» expansion and possible relocation of the Gladesville Library

» delivery of a local community centre space and community services space in North Ryde

» relocation and/or expansion of the library at North Ryde[1]

» delivery of a local community services space in Top Ryde

» delivery of a neighbourhood community centre space in Macquarie Park

» redevelopment of the Westminster Park Hall into a local community centre space

» consolidation of a number of Council owned properties to support the creation of these new facilities.

Existing directions for cultural and creative spaces

Ryde's network of venues-for-hire are likely to continue to be used for cultural purposes by local community groups. As acknowledged in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*, there is an undersupply of community space in Ryde which has an impact on utilisation for cultural and creative purposes.

Plans for new infrastructure which will address demand for access to creative and cultural spaces across the City of Ryde are:

» Ryde Central – addressing two critical gaps in the provision of local cultural infrastructure, providing new custom-designed performance and gallery spaces. These spaces will be co-located with other community venues-for-hire.

» Macquarie Park Library and Creative Hub – bringing together a specialised library service, creative activity facility and a smaller performance space. Cultural infrastructure within this hub will have a focus on learning, development and innovation in line or aligning with the values and interests of the Macquarie Park community.

In addition, Council recognises the opportunity for the incorporation of micro cultural infrastructure in the development of all new community facilities, such as secure gallery displays in public areas. Investments at a design stage, such as sprung floors in activity rooms to accommodate dancing, may enable greater suitability of facilities for activities of cultural users.

It is Council's position that, where possible, heritage buildings accommodate cultural and/or creative-based tenants. While the majority of heritage buildings could accommodate longer term tenants, operating under licence agreements, Brush Farm House may suit a mix of licenced and casual users. Brush Farm House also has the potential to act as a community or hobbyist level cultural hub, bringing together different creative groups and users. Currently, three rooms on the ground floor are arranged to offer semi-professional gallery space, and could also operate as a venue for casual and artist-run exhibitions hire.

Council is also considering opportunities for partnerships and the broader market to address demand or gaps in the provision of creative and cultural spaces. Council acknowledges that there are significant gaps in the provision of:

» artist studios for producing creative work, particularly for emerging and professional visual art, craft and design practitioners

» small venues for live performance in the City of Ryde (accommodating between 25 to 100 people) which are essential for the presentation and development of emerging and independent music, theatre, poetry and dance.

The needs of artistic and performance users are directly influenced by their specific activities. Suitable spaces for artist studio spaces would ideally offer some level of tenancy, semi-industrial form and a cost at below market rent. Alternatively, the development of performance spaces relies heavily on the physical venue and its capacity to enable performance-based equipment and activities, while also contributing to the experience of visitors. These performance venues are often provided by hospitality businesses, such as pubs, bars and cafes.

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[1] Recommendations for North Ryde Library in the 2016 *Ryde Property Strategy* have been superseded by the *Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan 2019-2024*.

Council recognises that planning for artist spaces and performance venues, should consider the following:

» artist studios:

> co-locating multiple artist studios in a single location can help to strengthen a local arts community, and create opportunity for cross-pollination and collaboration

> Council should seek out opportunities to work with other partners from non-profit, public and private sectors to provide and manage this.

» Council should seek opportunities to incentivise and enable local businesses to present live performance in City of Ryde (which will also likely support night-time economic activity).

3 Current situation

3.1 Existing demographics

Population characteristics such as age, family and household structure, cultural background, income and levels of advantage and disadvantage are of particular interest when planning for social and cultural infrastructure as these factors can indicate levels and types of community need.
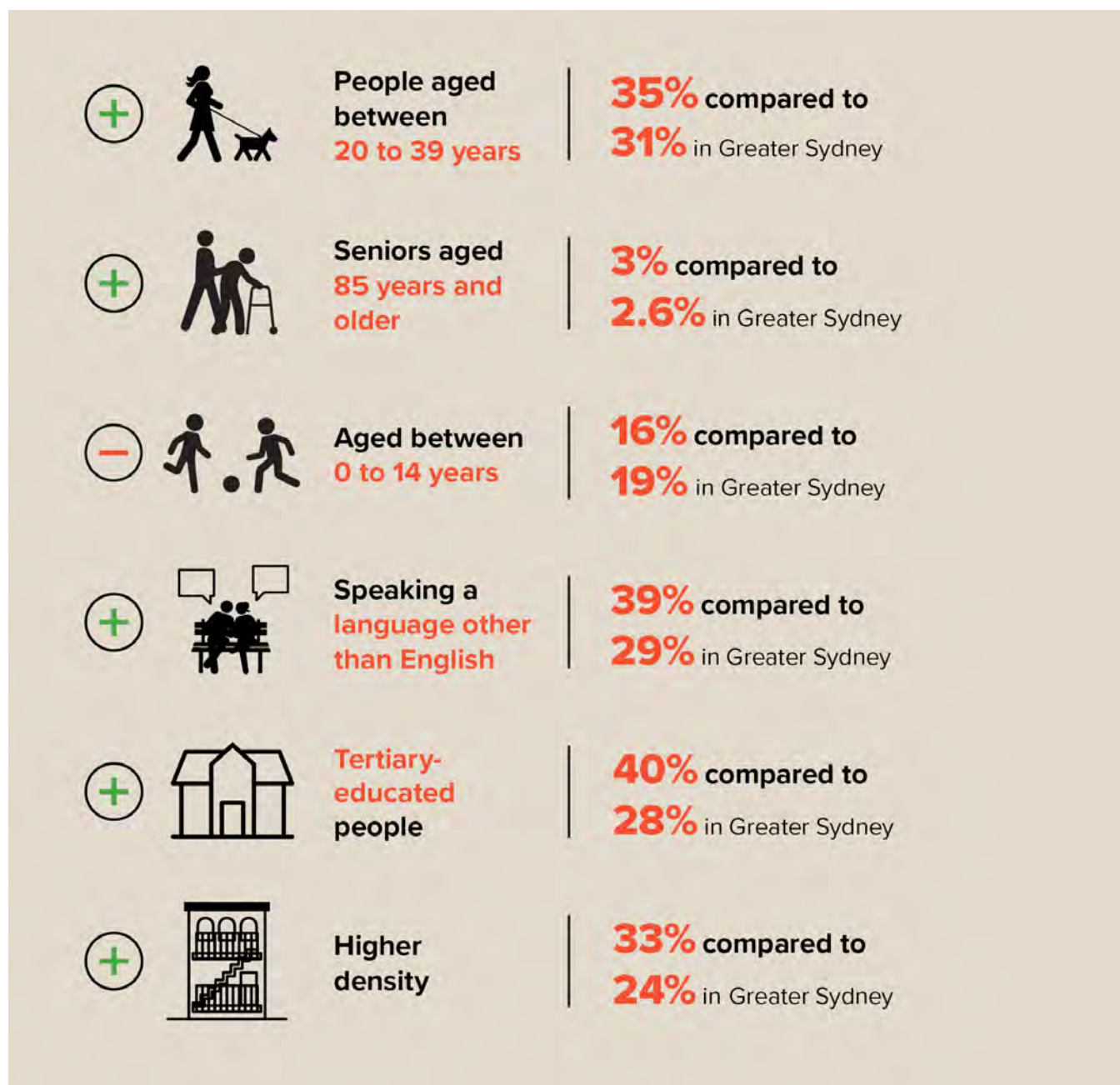
Compared with Greater Sydney, in 2016 the City of Ryde was characterised by:

» slightly higher proportions of people likely to be beginning their careers, their families and / or building their homes, aged between 20 to 39 years (35% compared to 31% in Greater Sydney)

» slightly higher proportions of seniors, aged 85 years and older (3% compared to 2.6% in Greater Sydney)

» slightly lower proportions of younger children and babies, aged between 0 to 14 years (16% compared to 19% in Greater Sydney)

» cultural diversity with 39% of the City or Ryde speaking a language other than English (compared to 29% for Greater Sydney) and Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean the most popular spoken languages other than English. People who speak a language other than English has also increased by 6% since 2011

» significantly higher proportion of tertiary-educated people, with close to 40% of the population having a bachelor or higher degree (compared to 28% for Greater Sydney)

» greater proportion of people living in higher density (33% compared to 24% in Greater Sydney).

There are also some distinct variations in demographic characteristics across the different suburbs and catchments including:

» lower median ages in the higher density areas of Macquarie Park and Meadowbank – Melrose Park, and higher median ages in the established, lower density areas to the east of the LGA (East Ryde, Putney, Gladesville)

» greater proportion of residents speaking a language other than English in Eastwood and Macquarie Park

» a concentration of residents with higher levels of education in Macquarie Park and Meadowbank-Melrose Park.

Figure 1   Existing City of Ryde demographics (2016)

People aged between 20 to 39 years — 35% compared to 31% in Greater Sydney

Seniors aged 85 years and older — 3% compared to 2.6% in Greater Sydney

Aged between 0 to 14 years — 16% compared to 19% in Greater Sydney

Speaking a language other than English — 39% compared to 29% in Greater Sydney

Tertiary-educated people — 40% compared to 28% in Greater Sydney

Higher density — 33% compared to 24% in Greater Sydney

3.2   Current social and cultural infrastructure

Council's recent studies and strategic documents point to an under-provision of all social and cultural infrastructure in the City of Ryde including:

» a significant under provision of multipurpose community facility space as outlined in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*, particularly spaces greater than 500sqm

» an under provision of library space both in total amount of space and at individual libraries as outlined in the *Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan*

» a limited number and variety of spaces available for the community to engage in culture and creativity, in particular a lack of studio spaces for larger groups to meet as outlined in the *Creativity Strategy*

» a lack of youth spaces with youth specific services and recreational spaces, identified in consultation with youth and volunteers in the City of Ryde.

The *Halls and Facilities Strategy* found that the majority of Council's facilities are currently below 500sqm and that no facilities currently incorporate multipurpose design in a way that they could cater to a range of different activities at the same time. This is largely due to many facilities not being purpose built and most facilities being greater than 20 years old (95%). Even the most recently built facility, West Ryde Hub, does not include large enough hireable space that it is able to accommodate a range of activities at the same time.

Due to the age of the facilities, many did not have a welcoming presence with good external appearance. While well maintained, many facilities looked old and dated. Due to not being purpose built facilities, some were not easily identifiable as a public facility available for community use. Additionally, many of the facilities did not provide adequate parking.

There were a number of facilities that were well located near public transport and integrated with other services including Eastwood Women's Rest Centre, North Ryde School of Arts community hall and meeting room and West Ryde Community Hub. While some facilities had a main street location, most facilities were not easily identified as a public facility available for community use.

The Strategy also identified a significant under provision of community facility space in the southern part of the LGA around Gladesville.

The *Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan* also found that there is a significant undersupply of library space, both in total and at individual libraries. At approximately 500sqm, the current branch libraries at Eastwood, Gladesville and North Ryde are all undersized. The Plan also identified the need for library spaces to be designed in a way that meets the changing needs of the community including incorporation of flexible spaces and up to date technology.

A review of cultural facilities, which informed the *Creativity Strategy,* found that there are currently very few venues specifically designed for arts and cultural use in City of Ryde. Currently, arts and cultural activity is accommodated in other Council facilities of varying levels of suitability.

Ryde does not currently have any major cultural infrastructure for performance. The broader region has two major pieces of performance based cultural infrastructure in the Riverside Theatres in Parramatta and The Concourse in Chatswood, and this provision also serves the City of Ryde community. There is currently a gap in spaces that can be used for large semi-professional and community arts performances within the Ryde area.

In the broader region around City of Ryde, there is a gap in the provision of significant visual arts infrastructure, specifically a regional gallery space that presents curated shows and can accommodate touring exhibitions. More broadly, there is a limited number of gallery spaces of any level (local, district or regional) within the Ryde area.

3.3   **Non-Council owned infrastructure**

In addition to the facilities provided by Council, there is a range of other social and cultural infrastructure in the City of Ryde. These include facilities provided by:

»   neighbouring councils

»   Schools

»   Universities and TAFEs

»   registered clubs, such as RSL and sporting clubs

»   other organisations.

As discussed in the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*, part of Council's role could include acting as a conduit to some of these non-Council facilities for community groups and organisations needing space.

Should demand exceed the capacity of Council facilities, or if a non-Council facility would be deemed a more appropriate space for the required use, Council could act as a space broker, locating and negotiating the use of other spaces with, for example, school principals, leaders of faith-based organisations or club owners in the area. Council has already acknowledged the opportunity for partnerships and locating options in the broader market for artist studios and performance venues.

This could be achieved through the development of a community facilities and spaces register – a single, centralised database compiling a list of, and information about, Council and non-Council facilities.

4 Population growth

The population of the City of Ryde is projected to increase from 131,911 in 2019 to between approximately 170,000 to 190,000 people in 2041, with significant growth to occur across the Northern catchment and the Ryde catchment. Suburbs including Macquarie Park, Meadowbank-Melrose Park and Ryde (South and Top Ryde) in particular are projected for significant population growth (see Figure 2).

Along with population projections, it is important to consider how future development is likely to result in changes to the demographic make-up of the City of Ryde. Table 2 below shows estimated increases in the population of the City of Ryde by age group.

This table shows that there will be the most significant growth in people aged 15-19 years, 25-39 years and 70-84 years. This suggests that spaces and services for young people will be even more critical in the future and with significantly increased numbers of older people aged over 70, it will be even more important that facilities are accessible and well located.

Table 1   Age groups in Ryde LGA, 2016 – 2041

Age group	Proportion of the population		Total population change (2016-2041)
	2016	**2041**	
	%	%	%
0 to 4 years	6.3	6.0	+33.2%
5 to 14 years	10.1	10.0	+35.0%
15 to 19 years	5.3	5.7	**+40.8%**
20 to 24 years	8.5	8.2	+33.4%
25 to 39 years	26.5	26.5	**+36.0%**
40 to 59 years	24.4	23.3	+32.9%
60 to 69 years	8.9	8.6	+33.9%
70 to 79 years	5.4	6.7	**+48.1%**
80 to 84 years	1.9	2.5	**+49.6%**
85 years and older	2.5	2.4	+34.5%

Source: .id, June 2019

In addition, there is likely to be an increase in higher density dwellings associated with the suburbs projected to accommodate significant population growth. An increase in people living in high density means it will be even more important to provide well-located spaces that allow for events and functions, recreation, meeting friends and family and other activities outside the home.

An analysis of the characteristics of apartment dwellers living in urban transformation areas or new higher density developments (using 2016 ABS census data for Pyrmont, Zetland, Rhodes and Meadowbank) compared to residents of Greater Sydney, indicated that people living in high density developments were likely to be:

» living in private rental accommodation as opposed to owner occupied

» young adults (25-34 years)

» young couples without children or single persons

» engaged in professional or managerial roles with high median weekly household income.

While the above findings cannot be relied on to determine the potential demographic make-up of higher density areas in the City of Ryde, they can provide some high-level insight into the demographic characteristics of high density households.

Understanding the likely demographic make up of these dwellings can assist in determining which community facility programs and services should have priority in areas of high density in the future.

Figure 2 below shows both the total projected population by catchment, as well as an indication of population change (increase) across the catchments. The greatest population growth is expected to occur in the North catchment, estimated increase by 15,000 to 30,000 people by 2041. This catchment is projected to effectively double in size based on its 2019 population (approximately 15,000 people, based on ABS 2019). The least amount of change is expected in the South and North Ryde catchments. Each of these catchments are forecast to increase by up to 5,000 people. However, while West catchment indicates less growth in population, it's forecast population will continue to represent a significant proportion of the total LGA population, approximately 30 per cent of the total LGA (based on 2019 ABS population of 50,234 people, which currently represents almost 40% of total LGA).

Figure 2   Projected population by catchment (2041)
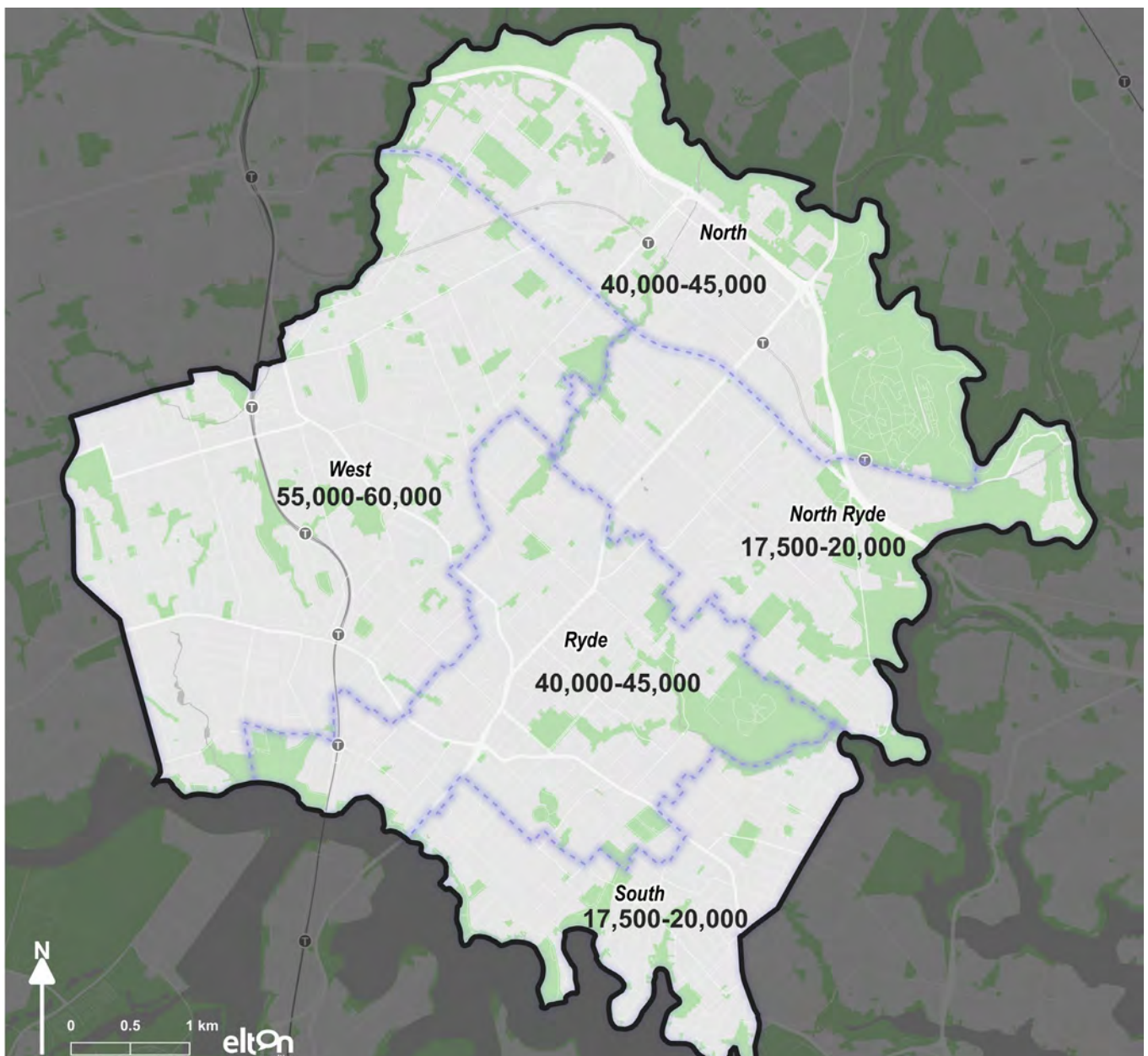
5   **Leading practice**

Many cities and councils in Australia and elsewhere in the world are critically assessing their social and cultural infrastructure and exploring new 21st century models for meeting community needs and aspirations.

Table 2 summarises national and international trends in the best practice provision of social and cultural infrastructure, identified through a literature review and ongoing case study research.

Table 2   National and international trends in the provision of social and cultural infrastructure

Trend	Description	Example
Larger facilities	There has been a move towards the provision of larger, but fewer, facilities designed for bigger population catchments – which can provide a higher quality and wider range of spaces, services and activities	**The Concourse** in Chatswood, which is a major regional facility incorporating a concert hall and theatre, as well as a library of over 5,000m^2 and restaurants, shops and a large area of outdoor space
Clustering of facilities	Leading practice favours the clustering of community buildings in places that are readily accessible by public transport and where people already congregate, such as shopping centres and schools	**Gungahlin Town Centre Wellbeing Precinct** in Canberra, which currently includes a public library and facilities for secondary and vocational students, and is planned to incorporate sport and recreation facilities to serve students and the wider community
Colocation of services	This is intended to enhance coordination between services and convenience for clients, as well as the more efficient use of limited resources	**Riverwood Community Centre**, which has been in operation since 1974 and contains 14 services and programs in one multipurpose building
Multipurpose facilities	To make the best use of limited resources, facilities need to provide for multiple uses and serve a range of population groups, as well as adapting as needs change over time	**Mount Pleasant Community Centre** in Vancouver, which contains diverse spaces including a 1,115m^2 library, childcare centre, fitness centre, arts rooms, multipurpose rooms and outdoor spaces, as well as affordable housing
Placemaking role	Community facilities are recognised as helping create vital public spaces that engender a sense of place and distinctive community identity	**Casula Powerhouse** is a multidisciplinary arts centre, featuring six galleries, a performance space and a café / restaurant. The art centre draws audiences from across Greater Sydney, and fosters a distinctive and local sense of place. Casula Powerhouse is a facility of the Liverpool City Council, and is funded by Arts Council NSW
Community building role	Overcoming social isolation and engendering a sense of belonging are important contributions of community facilities, particularly as increasing numbers of people live alone and seek social contact outside the home	**Idea Stores in Tower Hamlets in London**, which have been designed as community focal points in town centre locations, with community services and programs offered in accessible, relaxed and informal settings
Showcases of sustainability	Community facilities are often now used to showcase sustainable building	**Surry Hills Library**, which uses an atrium to filter air and reduce the need

Trend	Description	Example
	methods and design, as well as being adaptively reused where possible	for air conditioning, as well as being designed to conserve water and energy
Emphasis on partnerships	Community facilities are increasingly dependent on the development of partnerships between local and state government, as well community organisations, service providers and the private sector, to make them work	**Churchill and District Intergenerational Community Hub** in Victoria was developed and is being operated as a partnership between local, state and federal government, as well as major university **Hong Kong's ADC Artspace** provides affordable artist studios in a former industrial building. This program is a collaboration with a private landlord, providing the space at below market rate
Active asset management	Councils are taking a more active and strategic approach to asset management, ensuring that facilities are maintained and renewed in ways that meet community needs and are financially viable	Waverley Council's **Asset Investment Strategy**, which provided a plan for the renewal of a number of community facilities, such as the Waverley Park Pavilion, and is progressively being implemented
Incorporation of technology	Community facilities, particularly libraries, play a significant role in enhancing public access to information technologies and helping to overcome the digital divide	**The City of Canada Bay's The Learning Space** at The Connection in Rhodes offers diverse digital resources and creative learning programs exploring emerging technologies
Well communicated / Digitally advertised	Facilities are well communicated and advertised, making it easy for community to find spaces that will meet their social and cultural needs	**The City of Melbourne's Creative Spaces website** provides acts as a central information hub, listing both public and private affordable spaces that can support creative and cultural use

Figure 3 Leading practice examples

Clockwise from top left: Mount Pleasant Community Centre in Vancouver, Surry Hills Library in Sydney, Idea Store in London and Vinegar Hill Library and Community Centre in Sydney

6 Planning framework

6.1 Guiding principles

The following principles have been developed to guide the planning and delivery of social and cultural infrastructure across the City of Ryde. They are based on existing policy and incorporate learnings from national and international best practice.

	Contributes to a sense of place Community and cultural facilities should be distinctive and welcoming places, which reflect local culture. A strong connection between social and cultural infrastructure and the broader community can be fostered through development of facilities on landmark sites and with distinctive architecture and quality design. This helps ensure they develop a strong local profile, thereby promoting high levels of usage. Incorporating public art into the building design is also important to tell local stories and to create places that are recognised and valued in the community.
	Connected to public transport, pedestrian and cycling networks Proximity to public transport enhances accessibility for all population groups. Community and cultural facilities should ideally be located within 400 metres walking distance of a regular public transport stop. Linking to pedestrian and cycling networks provides another avenue to promote the accessibility of facilities to all groups in the population and is a further means to encourage sustainable behaviour and a healthy and active lifestyle. This should be supported through simple infrastructure at facilities, such as incorporating bike racks.
	Universal design Facilities should be designed to be universally accessible for all user groups, including people with a disability and parents and carers of children. Access to facilities should enable physical as well as social inclusivity for all community members. For example, the sensory and safety needs of persons living with intellectual disabilities could consider the relationship between entrances and roads, as well as the choice of materials for auditory and tactile experiences.
	Visible from the street or other public space To be well used and serve community needs, social and cultural infrastructure should be highly visible. Ideally, it should be on a main street with ground floor street frontage for optimum visibility and accessibility. Signage on and around the building should be clear and distinctive. Enabling an awareness of what happens inside, through the careful positioning of windows and signage, also promotes usage.
	Designed to be used flexibly Infrastructure should be designed and built to maximise flexibility of use. Where possible, buildings should be capable of delivering a range of services, rather than designated for single uses or specific target groups that may quickly become outdated. Flexibility is enhanced by providing multipurpose spaces capable of accommodating a diversity of uses, thereby enabling a range of activities and target groups to use the facility. Multiuse facilities are also more dynamic and capable of responding and adapting to the changing needs and preferences of the community. Facilities that are responsive and flexible will be used more intensively over their lifetime.

	Designed to maximise safety
	Social and cultural infrastructure should be designed in accordance with crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles. It should provide a high degree of personal safety for people entering and leaving the building, especially at night. Safety can be enhanced by:
	» involvement of the community in design and development of the facility, leading to feelings of ownership and hence greater use of the facility
	» providing spaces that can be visually monitored by a range of people including passers by and shop keepers
	» strategically positioning lighting, trees, and meeting places.
	Incorporates technology
	Social and cultural infrastructure, particularly libraries, play a significant role in enhancing public access to information technologies and helping to overcome the digital divide. Innovative ways should be sought to incorporate information and communications technologies into social and cultural infrastructure. This could include wi-fi access, computer terminals or labs, hot desks and recharging points for mobile phones, tablets and other devices.
	Designed to be expanded and adapted in response to changing community needs
	It is difficult to precisely predict requirements for social and cultural infrastructure. Assumptions about demand are based on current population projections. These assumptions, particularly those relating to detailed demographic compositions, may change and therefore effect requirements for social and cultural infrastructure. Past experience has shown it is important to allow for flexibility and adaptability in the provision of community space over the long term life of a facility.
	Incorporates environmentally sustainable design
	Social and cultural infrastructure should be financially sustainable and provide value for money for users, owners and operators. While capital funding is a major issue, ongoing operational costs are often a greater expense. Key considerations include building design that reduces ongoing operating and maintenance costs. The incorporation of environmentally sustainable design features is critical in this regard. Features to consider include passive solar design and the use of natural ventilation, insulation and natural light. These features reduce ongoing operational costs for owners as well as for hirers and users.
	Incorporates compatible commercial uses
	Facility design that incorporates cost recovery is also important. This can include the incorporation of space for casual hire or longer term lease for either community or compatible commercial uses. Appropriate commercial uses may include cafes and local service providers, such as doctors, physiotherapists, psychologists, lawyers and accountants, as well as the offices of local representatives. It may also include a wide variety of social enterprises.
	Are planned and delivered as part of a network
	Community and cultural facilities should not be planned in isolation but be considered as a broader network of facilities that work together to meet a broad range of community needs, across a district or sub-region. Planning and delivering facilities as a network represents an integrated, strategic approach to community facility provision. It allows facilities to provide a different range of offerings, with the option for each facility to include unique, specialist services or amenities.

⦿	**Are well located and clustered near a variety of other facilities, amenities and services** Well used facilities and spaces tend to be located in places that are readily accessible by public transport and where people already tend to congregate, such as shopping centres and schools. These locations increase convenience and decrease car trips by reducing the need for multiple trips. They also enhance visibility, safety and convenient access. Clustering and collocating community facilities such as community centre space, libraries and community services can provide a much more efficient use of resources, by sharing common facilities rather than each organisation having its own separate spaces and amenities. Co-location can also enhance synergies between services and encourage greater integration of service delivery.
P	**Incorporates accessible parking** As well as being located in close proximity to public transport, it is important that facilities include provision of well-lit, on-site or shared car parking within walking distance of the centre. Accessibility parking spaces should also be provided as close as possible to entrances.

6.2   Centres and catchments

This Framework takes a catchment based approach to guide the provision of social and cultural infrastructure. Planning on a catchment basis enables a more equitable and place-based approach to the supply and distribution of social and cultural infrastructure.

A catchment based approach considers the distribution and location of key urban centres, community travel patterns, and existing and future population size and distribution across the LGA. This process has resulted in the identification of five catchments for the City of Ryde that will form the basis of planning for social and cultural infrastructure.

The five catchments are:

» **Western catchment** including the key urban centres of Eastwood and West Ryde and suburbs Denistone, Denistone East, Denistone West, and Marsfield (60% of suburb)

» **Ryde catchment** including the key urban centre of Ryde and the suburbs Meadowbank and Melrose Park

» **Northern catchment** including the key urban centre of Macquarie Park and the suburb Marsfield (40% of suburb)

» **Southern catchment** including the key urban centre of Gladesville and the suburbs Putney and Tennyson Point

» **North Ryde** catchment including the key urban centre of North Ryde and the suburbs East Ryde and Chatswood West.

Figure 4   Centres and catchments
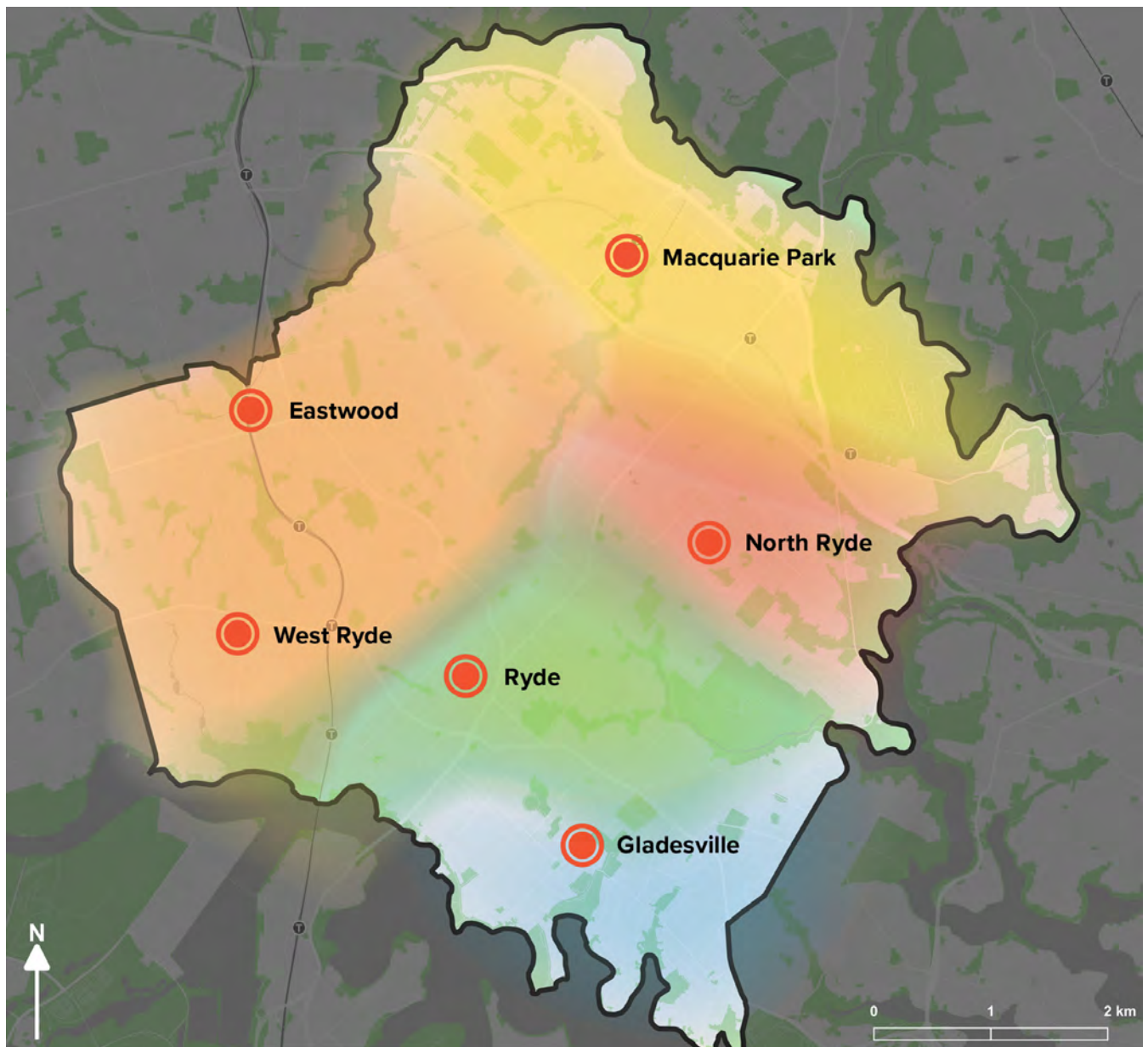
6.3 Creating a network

As highlighted in the guiding principles, social and cultural infrastructure should not be planned in isolation but should be considered as a broader network of facilities that work together to meet a broad range of community needs, across a region.

Each facility in that network should have its own role and function determined by the needs of its primary catchment (regional, district, neighbourhood, or local area). Furthermore, the specific role and function should be viewed as part of a broader citywide or regional network. Any individual facility cannot meet the needs of a whole catchment population. However, the network of community facilities (made up of regional, district and neighbourhood or local facilities) can address the majority of community needs and have the capacity to adapt and change as those needs evolve.

Like an urban framework, considering social and cultural infrastructure provision according to a planning hierarchy helps to create a structured network. A hierarchy can ensure that a diverse network of facilities is provided and that facilities of different types and sizes are available to meet a wider diversity of community needs. The hierarchy recognises the need for larger regional level facilities that serve the whole of the City of Ryde (or broader) as well as the local level and neighbourhood spaces that serve smaller community needs. Each plays a different role but all are important parts of a robust and diverse network of infrastructure.

The following planning hierarchy is based on the hierarchy outlined in the *Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan*, *Creativity Strategy* and the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*:

» **Regional or City-wide level facilities** are facilities of city wide or regional significance, are usually larger in size and serve a broad population catchment (LGA or wider 100,000+). Aligns with the City Library level in the *Library Service Strategic Plan*. Large arts and cultural facilities may serve an even broader catchment that extends past LGA boundaries. For community centre space, facilities are around 3,000sqm and include multiple sizes and types of facilities. For community services space, facilities are around 1,500sqm.

» **District level facilities** serve a large catchment town centre population (20,000 – 50,000 people) and receive regular usage from a wide range of users. Aligns with the Specialised Centre Library level in the *Library Service Strategic Plan*. For community centre space, facilities are often around 1,500 – 2,500sqm and include multipurpose spaces, catering for a range of activities. For community services space, facilities are usually around 500sqm.

» **Local level facilities** serve a smaller catchment of around 5,000 – 20,000 people. Aligns with the Small Centre Library level in the *Library Service Strategic Plan*. For community centre spaces, facilities usually include multipurpose space but on a smaller level to a district facility, and are around 500 – 1,000sqm. For community services space, facilities are usually around 350sqm.

» **Neighbourhood level facilities** service the population located in close proximity (2,000 – 5,000 people) and receive regular usage from mainly local users. Venues have limited capacity and cater to local groups (less than 500sqm), and often include small halls, meeting rooms or neighbourhood houses. Some of these facilities may be supplied by Council but others are provided by non-Council organisations including schools and churches. Neighbourhood level facilities do not usually include community services space.

Population thresholds suggested by this hierarchy should be applied flexibly, bearing in mind that the size of population catchments necessary to sustain different types of facilities will also be influenced by settlement patterns, travel distances and population characteristics. In particular, large arts and cultural facilities will often serve broader catchments that span several LGAs.

6.4 Standards and benchmarks

Standards and benchmarks provide useful starting points when planning for the future provision of social and cultural facilities. Both the *Halls and Facilities Strategy* and the *Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan* utilised standards and benchmarks to determine future directions for Council's libraries and facilities.

The City of Ryde *Halls and Facilities Strategy* adopts the standard of 80sqm – 100sqm per 1,000 people as a starting point for determining provision of community halls and facilities in the City of Ryde. The Strategy recommends that distribution of facility space in the City of Ryde be guided by the following standards:

» community centre space – approximately 60sqm /1,000 people

» community services space – approximately 20sqm/1,000 people

» arts and cultural space – approximately 20sqm/1,000 people

» total – approximately 100sqm/1,000 people.

The *Ryde Library Service Strategic Plan* references the standards and benchmarks outlined in the NSW State Library document *People Places* (3rd edition, 2012). This document provides two methodologies for determining the need for and size of a new or expanded library building. These include the service based benchmark and the population based benchmark.

The service based benchmark is derived from the space required to provide the services and collections that will be delivered from the library building. This benchmark is considered to be the more specific of the two in defining the required size for a library. The population based benchmark provides a recommended size for a library based on the population catchment it is to service. This may be thought of as a recommended size, but it should be noted that it may not reflect the size required to deliver the range of services specific to any given library. These two methodologies should be used together to provide a range of sizes for a new/expanded library building.

Both of these methodologies are outlined in the *People Places* document and should be referred to when planning for new or expanded libraries.

There a no fixed or formal standards for cultural infrastructure.

Standards and benchmarks are useful but should be understood as a general guide and should be applied flexibly, taking into account a range of other factors. Importantly, these standards should be interpreted in conjunction with the guiding principles for social and cultural infrastructure identified in the previous section.

It is also important to note that these standards do not take into account the age of users in specific social infrastructure, such as early childhood education and care services and youth specific facilities, as these facilities are planned according to different determinants for demand.

6.5 Hub model

Clustering and collocating social and cultural infrastructure such as community centre space, arts and cultural spaces, libraries and community services can provide a much more efficient use of resources, by sharing common facilities rather than each organisation having its own separate spaces and amenities. Co-location can also enhance synergies between services and encourage greater integration of service delivery.

While it is not desirable to attempt to develop a single model for all facilities, the hub model provides some direction for future provision. Reflecting on the principles for social infrastructure provision, the focus of future community facility provision is recommended to be on larger, flexible, multipurpose community spaces that address a wide range of community needs and have the capacity to adapt and change as community needs evolve.

A hub can be described as the location of a series of spaces and/or facilities clustered together on the same or adjoining sites, creating a focal point that is recognised in the community as a safe gathering place for people and an access point for a wide range of community activities, programs, services and events.

An essential feature of community hubs, regardless of scale, is that they are a form of social infrastructure that is not seen in isolation but rather as an integrated, valid and contributing element of a vibrant and interesting activity centre. They can act as important people attractors and add significant value to town and commercial centres; their multipurpose nature also enables them to be targeted to address specific community needs and to adapt and evolve over time.

Hubs provide a number of benefits for the City of Ryde in that they:

» are based in locations that are readily accessible by public transport and where people already congregate

» bring compatible services and facilities together to create a community focal point

» provide for multiple uses, serve a range of population groups and offer a diversity of services, programs, activities and events

» improve access and safety for users who can access a range of services in a single location

» are a more efficient use of land and other resources, through shared, rather than separate, uses such as meeting rooms, staff amenities and parking

» provide greater viability of services and agencies through sharing of resources.

In the City of Ryde community hubs can include various combinations of space, including community centre space, library space, civic space, community services space and arts and cultural space depending on the identified community need for a particular area.

For example, the West Ryde Hub includes significant community services space and some community centre space. The Ryde Central facility is planned to include significant multipurpose community centre space and significant arts and cultural space.

7 Future directions

This Chapter provides directions for the future provision of Council's social and cultural infrastructure over the next 20 years bringing together the directions outlined in Council's *Ryde Library Services Strategic Plan*, *Property Strategy*, *Social Plan*, *Creativity Strategy* and the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*.

Directions include proposed new facilities including approximate sizes, retained facilities and proposed redeveloped facilities and recommended timeframe for delivery.

The recommended time frames for delivery include:

» short term: 1-5 years

» medium term: 5-10 years

» long term: 10-20 years.

Maps showing existing and planned facilities in the City of Ryde are shown in Figures 5 and 6 on the following pages. Facilities have been numbered in alignment with Table 3 (after section 7.2.2).

7.1 LGA wide

The following map provides a summary of the proposed future provision of social and cultural infrastructure across the LGA, including new facilities, retained and redeveloped facilities. There are a number of facilities that will function as regional level facilities and therefore serve an LGA wide catchment.

Regional level facilities that serve the entire LGA include:

» Ryde Central Regional arts and cultural space and District community centre space (new)

» Macquarie Park Library and Creative Hub (new)

» Youth recreation and services hub (new)

» Ryde City Library (retained and expanded)

» West Ryde Regional community services hub and Neighbourhood community centre space (retained)

» Brush Farm House Regional community arts and cultural space (retained).

Figure 5   Future Regional facilities

Legend

- Arts and cultural space
- Community services space
- Youth space
- Library

○ Existing/Planned facilities
◌ Proposed (site not yet identified)

Regional facilities

Western catchment
11 West Ryde Community Centre and Hall
16 Brush Farm House

Ryde catchment
1 Ryde Central
13 Ryde City Library

Northern catchment
3 Macquarie Park Library and Creative Hub

Location not determined
9 Youth recreation and services hub

Figure 6   Future catchment facilities

Legend

- ■ Arts and cultural space
- ■ Community centre space
- ■ Community services space
- ■ Library
- ■ Early childhood education and care

- ○ Existing/Planned facilities
- ○ Proposed (site not yet identified)

Future facilities

Western catchment
2 Eastwood Library and Community Hub
11 West Ryde Community Centre and Hall
12 West Ryde Library (expanded)
15 Lion's Park
17 Old Eastwood Town Hall
22 KU Children's Services (Eastwood Preschool Kindergarten)

Ryde catchment
1 Ryde Central
6 Top Ryde District Community Services Hub
13 Ryde City Library
14 Shepherd's Bay
18 Addington House (component not identified)
19 Westward Cottage
20 The Parsonage
21 Willandra House
23 Goulding Hill Preschool
24 North Ryde Community Preschool

Northern catchment
3 Macquarie Park Library and Creative Hub
4 Macquarie Park Community Centre
5 Northern Catchment Community Hub

Southern catchment
7 Gladesville Library and Community Hub
10 Westminster Hall

North Ryde catchment
8 North Ryde Library and Community Hub
25 KU Children's Services (North Ryde Preschool)
26 North Ryde Montessori Preschool
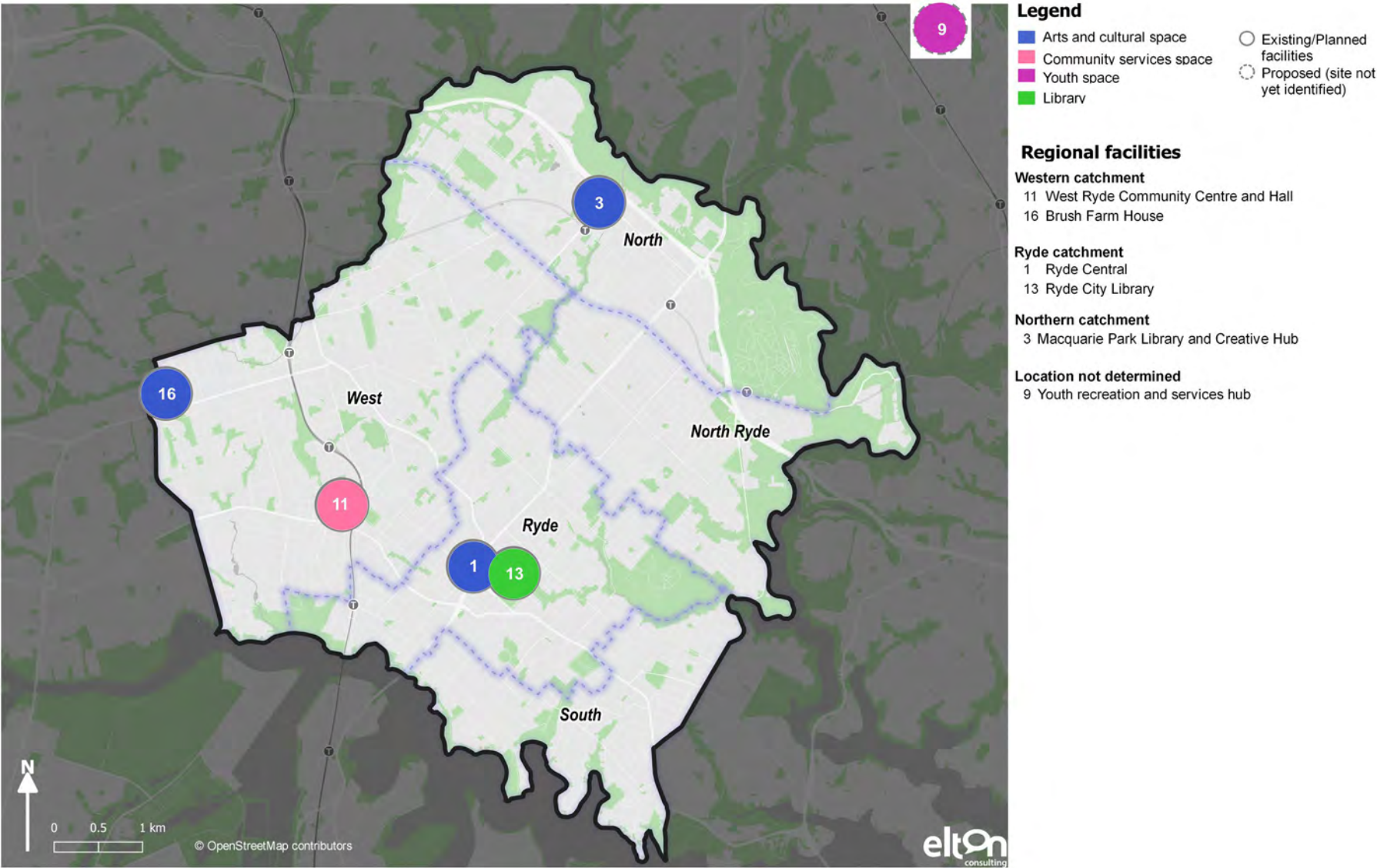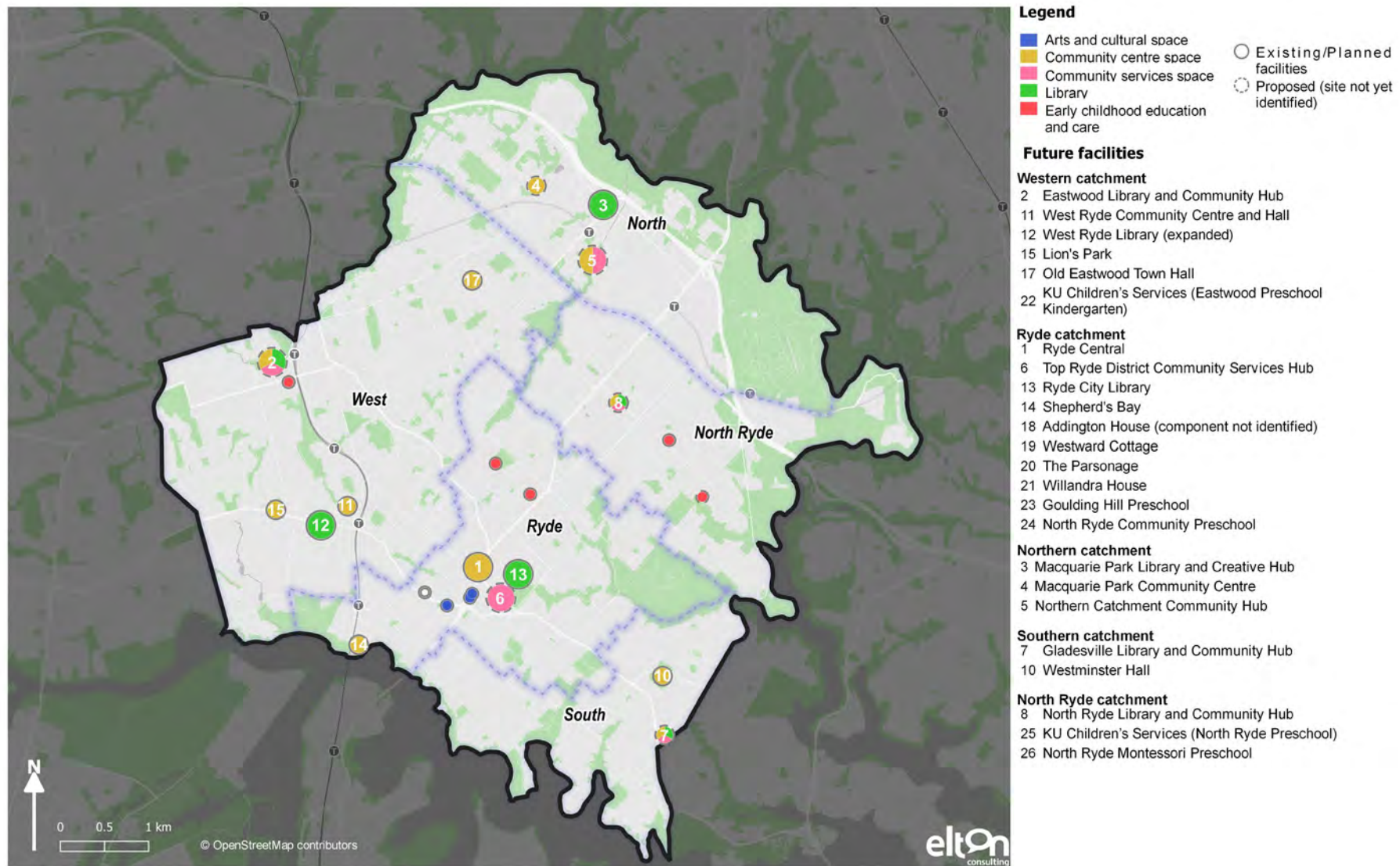
7.2   Other facilities

There are also additional facilities not included on the map that form part of Council's social and cultural infrastructure network including heritage buildings and Early Childhood Education and Care Services.

7.2.1   Heritage

There are six heritage facilities in the City of Ryde, owned by Council:

» Brush Farm House

» Old Eastwood Town Hall

» Addington House

» Westward Cottage

» The Parsonage

» Willandra House.

It is recommended that Council preserve the heritage value of existing heritage facilities while enabling them to play a complementary role in the network by having an ongoing role as licenced venues. With the exception of Old Eastwood Town Hall, these buildings should be used to provide space for arts and cultural organisations.

In the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*, it is recommended that Brush Farm be developed as a regional community arts and cultural space (see above) and Old Eastwood Town Hall transitions from a licenced venue towards a hireable space.

7.2.2   Early Childhood Education and Care

Council also has a number of Early Childhood Education and Care Services including:

» KU Children's Services (Eastwood Preschool Kindergarten)

» Goulding Hill Preschool

» North Ryde Community Preschool

» KU Children's Services (North Ryde Preschool)

» Montessori Preschool

» Eastwood Occasional Childcare Centre.

Opportunities should be explored to expand existing pre-school facilities or develop new spaces as the City's population continues to grow. Community based preschools continue to provide an important part of the overall Early Education and Childcare provision. This type of Early Education service would not exist without Council's support as a facility provider.

The *Halls and Facilities Strategy* recommends maintaining the existing early childhood education and care services currently located in Council's community facilities. Only Eastwood Occasional Childcare is planned for replacement by Eastwood Community Hub's District community centre space (see Table 5 in Section 7.5).

In the future, opportunities need to be explored to expand existing facilities or develop new spaces for preschools, as this type of early childhood education would not exist in the City of Ryde without Council's support, as a facility provider. Community based not-for-profit preschools, which are not eligible for Commonwealth Child Care Subsidies have struggled to remain viable in recent years when faced with the large growth in for-profit centre based care services.

7.2.3   Child and Family Health Services

Consultation with NSW Health indicated that the facilities at West Ryde are an excellent model for Child and Family Health Services, however the existing facilities in Marsfield and Ryde are not appropriate for service provision. Both facilities are too small and require additional clinical rooms and a need for separate staffing and client room spaces. Consultation also identified an opportunity for the group activity room to be a shared space as Child and Family Health Services only require access to this space several times a week.

The *Halls and Facilities Strategy* recommends retention of the West Ryde Early Childhood Centre and relocation and enhancement of the Marsfield Early Childhood Centre (to a new facility in the Northern Catchment) and the Ryde Early Childhood Centre (ideally with proposed Community Services Hub in Top Ryde).

Table 3   LGA wide summary of future social and cultural infrastructure

	Facilities	Components	Size (approx.)	Timeframe
New facilities				
1	Ryde Central	» Regional arts and cultural space » District community centre space	» 2,500sqm » 2,250sqm	Short
2	Eastwood Library and Community Hub	» District community centre space » District community services space » Town Centre library	» 2,250sqm » 750sqm » 1,500-2,500sqm	Medium
		» Continue to explore the opportunity to provide some new community space in Rowe Street East		
3	Macquarie Park Library and Creative Hub	» Regional arts and cultural space » Specialised library	» 1,200sqm » 3,800sqm	Medium
4	Macquarie Park Community Centre	» Neighbourhood community centre space	» 500sqm	Long
5	Northern Catchment Community Hub	» District community centre space » District community services space	» 2,000sqm » 500sqm	Medium
6	Top Ryde District Community Services Hub	» District community services space	» 500sqm	Long
7	Gladesville Library and Community Hub	» Local community centre space » Local community services space » Small Centre library	» 750sqm » 350sqm » 1,000-1,500sqm	Long
8	North Ryde Library and Community Hub	» Local community centre space » Local community services space » Small centre library	» 1,000sqm » 350sqm » 1,000-1,500sqm	Long
9	Youth recreation and services hub	» Regional level youth recreation and services space	-	Medium-long
Redeveloped facilities				
10	Westminster Hall	» Neighbourhood community centre space	» 250sqm	Short
Retained facilities				
11	West Ryde Community Centre and Hall	» Regional community services space » Neighbourhood community centre space	» 1,584sqm » 235sqm	-
12	West Ryde Library	» Expansion of West Ryde Library	» 1,500-2,500sqm	-
13	Ryde City Library	» Expansion of Ryde City library	» 3,000-6,000sqm	-
14	Shepherd's Bay	» Neighbourhood community centre space	» 148sqm	-
15	Lion's Park	» Neighbourhood community centre space	» 154sqm	-
16	Brush Farm House *Heritage*	» Regional community arts and cultural space	» 539sqm	-

	Facilities	Components	Size (approx.)	Timeframe
17	Old Eastwood Town Hall *Heritage*	» Neighbourhood community centre space	» 387sqm	-
18	Addington House *Heritage*	-	» 256sqm	-
19	Westward Cottage *Heritage*	» Space for arts and cultural organisations	» 60sqm	-
20	The Parsonage *Heritage*	» Space for arts and cultural organisations	» 131sqm	-
21	Willandra House *Heritage*	» Space for arts and cultural organisations	» 526sqm	-
22	KU Children's Services (Eastwood Preschool Kindergarten)	» Early childhood education and care	» 359sqm	-
23	Goulding Hill Preschool	» Early childhood education and care	» 400sqm	-
24	North Ryde Community Preschool	» Early childhood education and care	» 950sqm	-
25	KU Children's Services (North Ryde Preschool)	» Early childhood education and care	» 378sqm	-
26	Montessori Preschool	» Early childhood education and care	» 366sqm	-

Note: Eastwood Occasional Childcare is planned for replacement by Eastwood Community Hub's District community centre space (see following section).

7.3 Consolidate and rationalise

Clearly, the City of Ryde's asset base cannot keep expanding exponentially. Asset management costs are significant and are projected to increase over time as insurances and other asset related costs continue to grow.

In order to provide for community facilities that are purpose built and able to meet the community's needs into the future there will be a need to consolidate some of the older, smaller, poorly located, less fit for purpose, and underutilised community buildings. Facility consolidation and rationalisation can be a difficult process. It is important that both the rationale and process for facility consolidation be articulated and demonstrated spatially, with clear emphasis on the timely replacement of rationalised community facilities with larger, higher quality, multipurpose facilities in more accessible locations.

The *Halls and Facilities Strategy* proposes the disposal of 12 of Council's halls and facilities and suggested new facilities that could accommodate existing uses. These are provided in the following section.

7.4   Northern catchment

Suburbs:

Macquarie Park and Marsfield (40%)

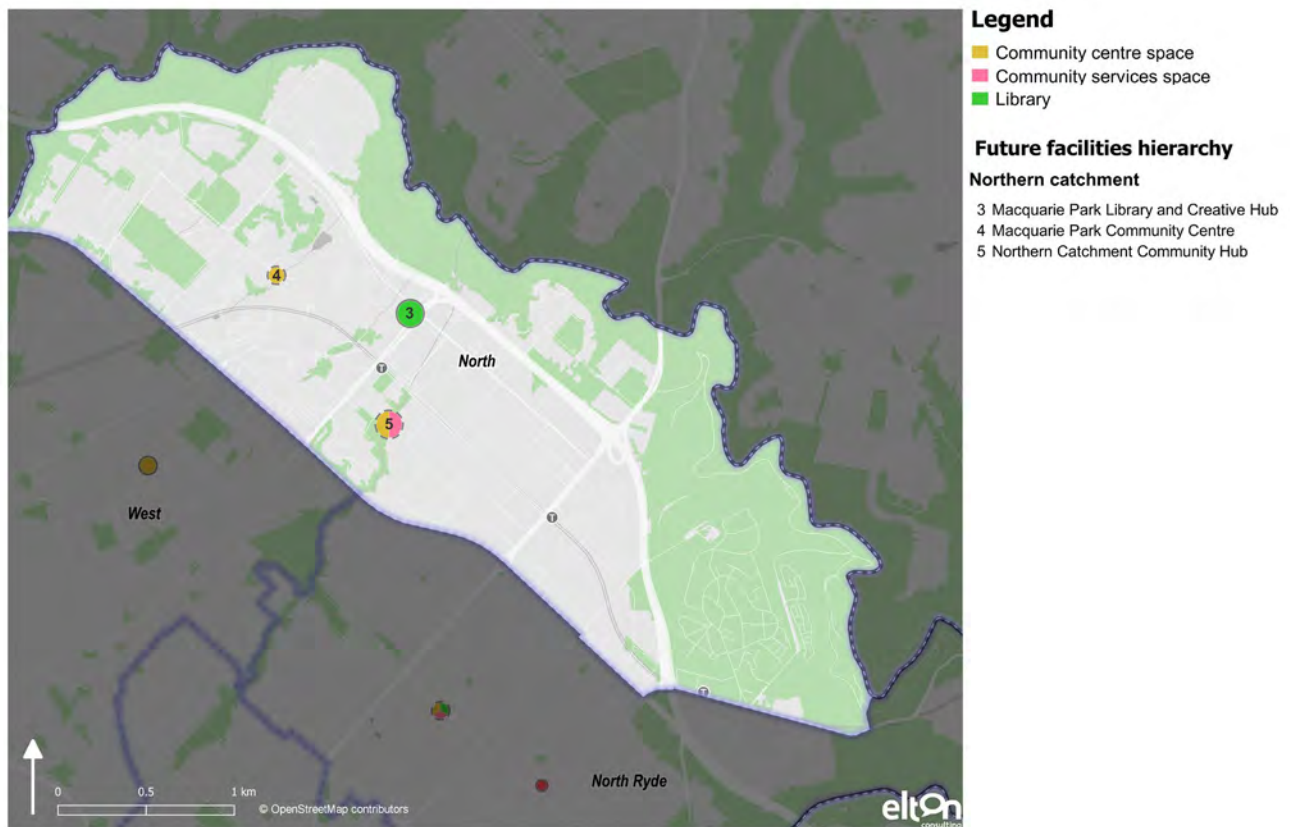**Population:**

2019: Approximately 15,000

2041: Approximately 40,000 – 45,000

Directions:

Table 4   Northern catchment actions

Facilities	
New	**Timeframe**
Macquarie Park Library & Creative Hub	Medium (5-10 years)
Northern Catchment Community Hub	Medium (5-10 years)
Macquarie Park Community Centre	Long (10-20 years)
Replaced/Disposed	**Replaced by**
Trafalgar Place Community Centre, Trafalgar Pl Marsfield	Northern Catchment District community centre space / Macquarie Park neighbourhood community centre space
Marsfield Early Childhood Centre, Trafalgar Pl Marsfield	Northern Catchment District community services space
Retained	
N/A	
Redeveloped	
N/A	

* Ryde Early Childhood Health Centre and Marsfield Early Childhood Centre are both Child and Family Health Services. A strategic direction for Child and Family Health Services is provided in Section 8 of the *Halls and Facilities Strategy*.

Figure 7   Northern catchment actions map

Note: proposed locations are indicative only

7.5 Western catchment

Suburbs:

Eastwood, Denistone – Denistone East – Denistone West, West Ryde, Marsfield (60%)
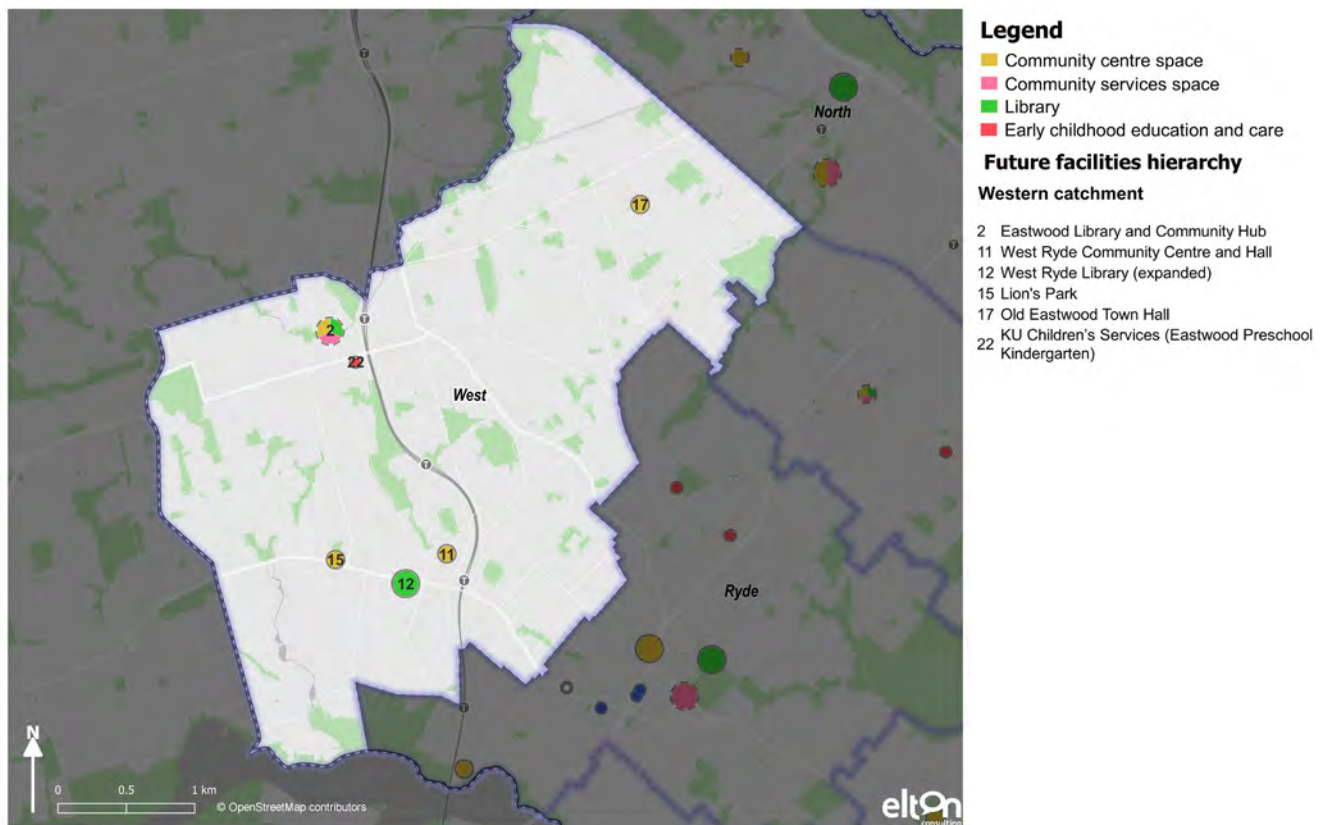
Population:

2019: Approximately 50,000

2041: Approximately 55,000 – 60,000

Directions:

Table 5   Western catchment actions

Facilities	
New	**Timeframe**
Eastwood Library and Community Hub	Medium (5-10 years)
Continue to explore the opportunity to provide some new community space in Rowe Street East	
Replaced/Disposed	**Replaced by**
Shaftsbury Place	Eastwood District community centre space
Eastwood Hall	
Eastwood Women's Rest Centre, Hillview Lane Eastwood	
Eastwood Occasional Childcare	
2 Dickson Ave West Ryde	Eastwood District community services space
10-12 Lakeside Rd Eastwood	
Eastwood Library	Eastwood Town Centre Library
West Ryde Hall, Station St West Ryde	West Ryde Community Centre and Hall
Retained	
Brush Farm House Regional community arts and cultural space	
West Ryde Community Centre and Hall	
West Ryde Library (expanded)	
Lion's Park	
Old Eastwood Town Hall	
KU Children's Services (Eastwood Preschool Kindergarten)	
Redeveloped	
N/A	

Figure 8   Western catchment actions map

Note: proposed locations are indicative only

7.6   **Ryde catchment**

Suburbs:

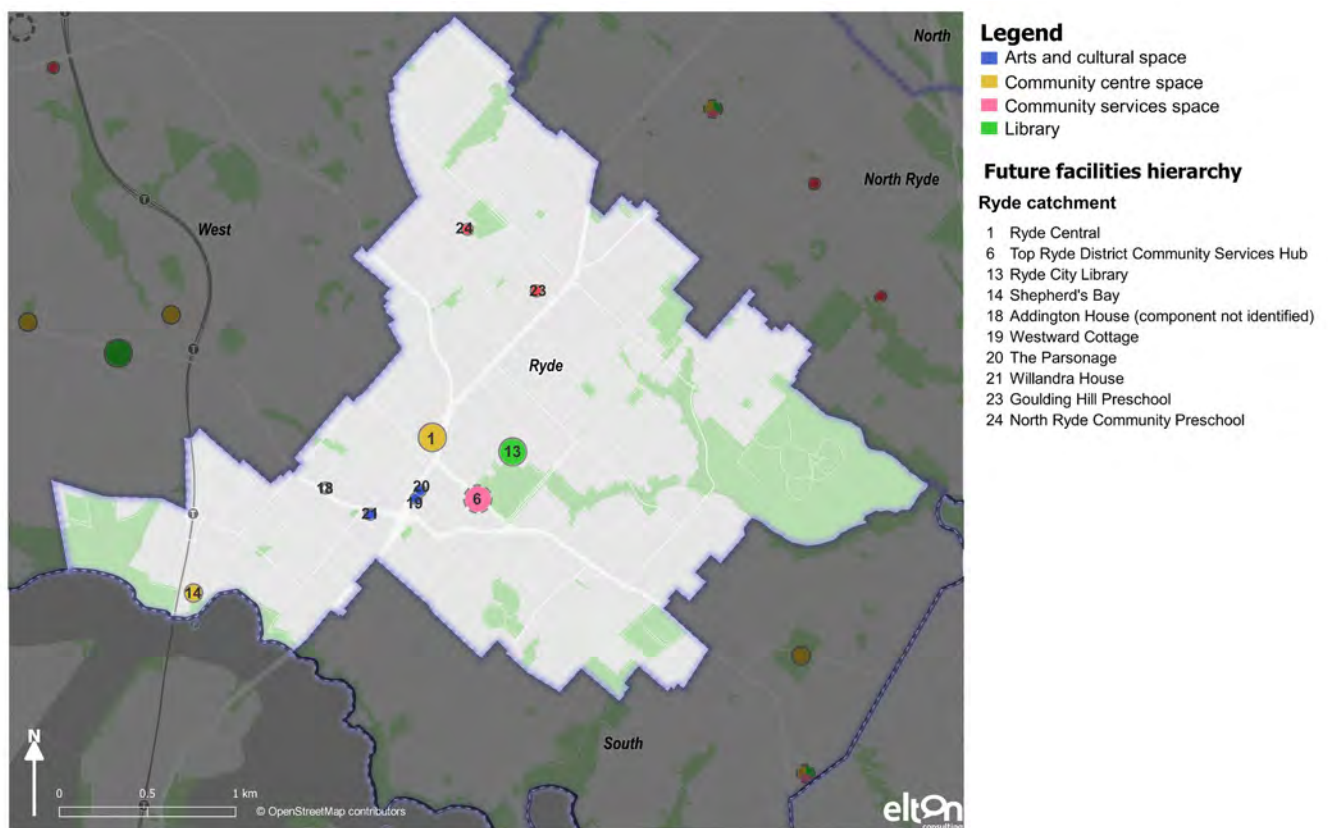Ryde, Meadowbank – Melrose Park

Population:

2019: Approximately 35,000

2041: Approximately 40,000 – 45,000

Directions:

Table 6   Ryde catchment actions

Facilities	
New	**Timeframe**
Ryde Central	Short (1-5 years)
Top Ryde District Community Services Hub	Long (10-20 years)
Replaced/Disposed	**Replaced by**
Civic Hall	Ryde Central
Ryde Early Childhood Health Centre, Argyle Ave	Top Ryde District Community Services Hub
Retained	
Shepherd's Bay	
Ryde City Library (expanded)	
Addington House	
Westward Cottage	
The Parsonage	
Willandra House	
Goulding Hill Preschool	
North Ryde Community Preschool	
Redeveloped	
N/A	

Figure 9   Ryde catchment actions map

Note: proposed locations are indicative only

7.7   Southern catchment

Suburbs:

Putney, Gladesville – Tennyson Point

Population:

2019: Approximately 17,000

2041: Approximately 17,500 – 20,000

Directions:

Table 7   Southern catchment actions

Facilities	
New	**Timeframe**
Gladesville Library and Community Hub	Long (10-20 years)
Replaced/Disposed	**Replaced by**
Gladesville Meeting Room	Gladesville Library and Community Hub
Gladesville Library	
Retained	
N/A	
Redeveloped	**Timeframe**
Westminster Hall	Short (1-5 years)

Figure 10 Southern catchment actions map

Note: proposed locations are indicative only

7.8   **North Ryde catchment**

Suburbs:

North Ryde - East Ryde - Chatswood West.
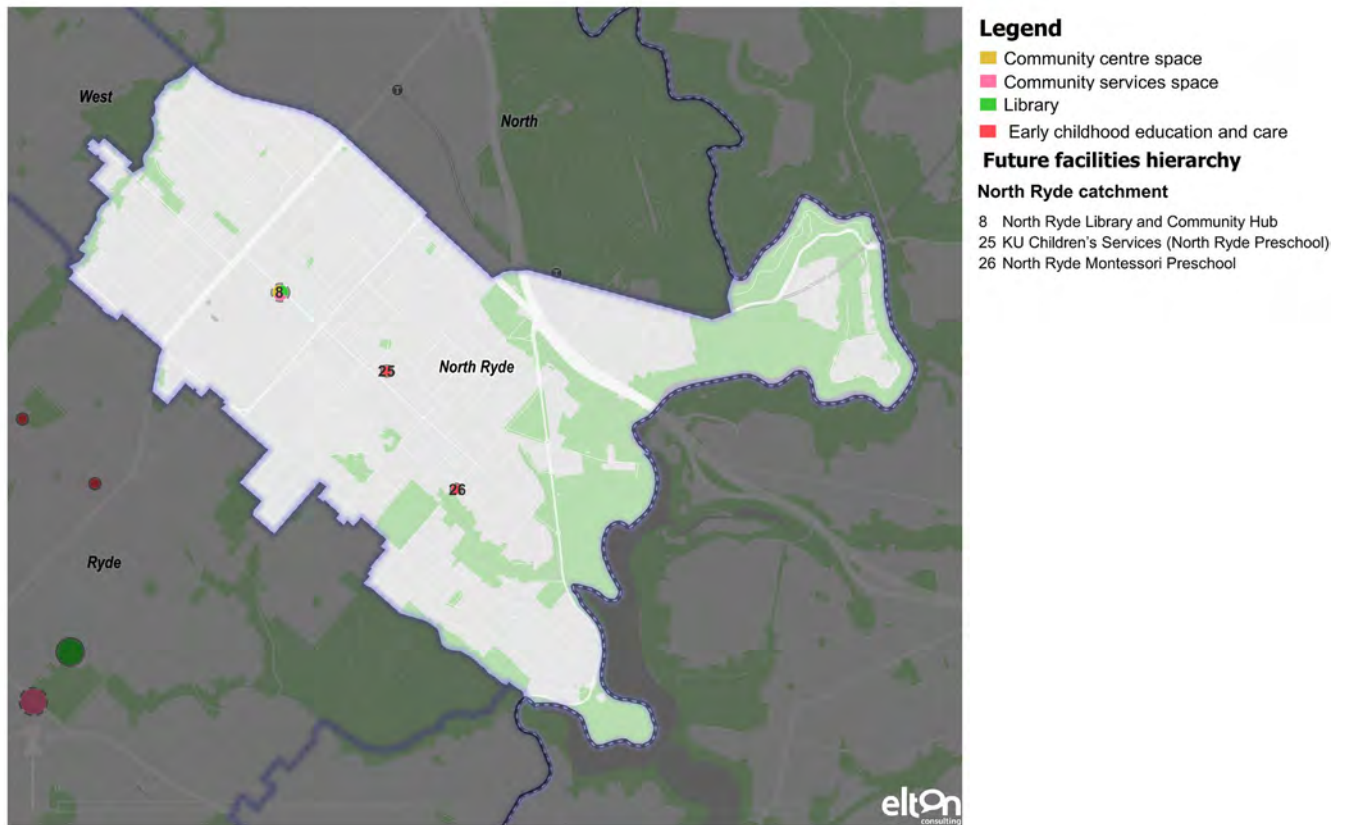
Population:

2016: Approximately 15,000

2041: Approximately 17,500 – 20,000

Directions:

Table 8   North Ryde catchment actions

Facilities	
New	**Timeframe**
North Ryde Library and Community Hub	Long (10-20 years)
Replaced/Disposed	**Replaced by**
North Ryde School of Arts Community Hall and Meeting Room, 201 Cox's Rd North Ryde	North Ryde Community Hub, Local community centre space
North Ryde Library	North Ryde Library (with North Ryde Community Hub)
North Ryde Community Aid, 4 Cutler Pd, North Ryde	North Ryde Community Hub, Local community services space
Retained	
KU Children's Services (North Ryde Preschool)	
Montessori Preschool	
Redeveloped	
N/A	

Figure 11 North Ryde catchment actions map

Note: proposed locations are indicative only