

**OPEN SPACE
ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN
COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL**

August 2026

COONAMBLE
SHIRE COUNCIL



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Open Space Asset Management Plan (AMP) is to provide a 10-year strategy for the sustainable management of Coonamble Shire Council's parks, recreation areas, and open space infrastructure.

This Plan outlines how Council will deliver safe, functional, and cost-effective open space services, optimise whole-of-life asset performance, manage risk, and ensure investment decisions are aligned with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program, Operational Plan, and Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP).

The AMP supports informed and evidence-based decision-making by providing a structured approach to the maintenance, renewal, and replacement of open space assets. It ensures that Council's open space network continues to meet current and future community needs in a financially responsible, equitable, and sustainable manner.

1.2 Asset Description

Coonamble Shire Council's Open Space asset

Once adopted, community and technical levels of service measures will provide a transparent framework for performance monitoring, investment prioritisation, and continuous improvement in open space service delivery.

1.4 Future Demand

Future demand for open space services in Coonamble Shire will be shaped by changing community expectations, demographic trends, tourism growth, and environmental factors. While population growth is expected to remain low, an ageing community and increasing interest in sport, recreation, and cultural activities will drive demand for more accessible, inclusive, and multi-use open spaces.

Council's strategic focus will be on improving connectivity through walking and cycling links, enhancing recreational and tourism facilities, and increasing environmental resilience through sustainable landscaping and water-sensitive design. These strategies aim to ensure that Coonamble's parks, playgrounds, and open spaces remain safe, welcoming, and adaptable to future community needs.

1.5 Life Cycle Management

Coonamble Shire Council manages its Open Space assets throughout their full lifecycle, including planning, acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal, and disposal to ensure that parks, playgrounds, sportsgrounds, and recreational facilities

Council's approach focuses on continuous improvement, enhancing data accuracy, embedding structured inspection programs, and integrating risk findings into renewal planning and investment decisions to ensure safe and sustainable open spaces for the community.

1.7 Financial Summary

The 10-year financial outlook for Coonamble Shire Council's Open Space assets identifies a total forecast renewal demand of approximately \$60.5 million, with a current renewal backlog of \$740,719. Budget information is available for the first four years of the planning period, during which Council has allocated around ~\$25 million over the planning period across renewal, new, and upgrade activities.

Using this estimate, ~\$10.1 would be for renewals, ~\$15.0 million would be for new and upgrade works, and \$12.98 million in operational expenditure to support ongoing maintenance and service delivery. The estimate over the future years will however require updated forecasts as asset condition data improves and long-term funding strategies are refined through the Long-Term Financial Plan.

The financial outlook

register, and integrating renewal and operational funding requirements into the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Collectively, these actions aim to enhance the reliability of asset information, optimise lifecycle planning, and ensure that Council's open space network continues to meet community expectations in a safe, equitable, and financially sustainable manner.

2.2 Purpose of the Plan

This Asset Management Plan outlines a 10-year plan for managing Coonamble Shire's Open Space assets, supporting Council's vision to plan, develop, and maintain infrastructure that is both sustainable and cost-effective.

The plan is grounded in responsible asset management principles, aiming to deliver the required levels of service to current and future customers while minimising lifecycle costs.

It ensures that Open Space infrastructure continue to operate effectively throughout its intended life, balancing technical, financial, environmental, and community considerations.

Key objectives of this plan are to:

- Provide a clear strategy for the long-term management of Open Space assets.
- Improve understanding of service level standards and enhance customer satisfaction and Council's reputation.
- Identify optimal whole-of-life costs to deliver the desired levels of service.
- Support decision-making by forecasting asset-related needs, management options, and funding requirements.
- Justify long-term works programs and future investment through evidence-based planning.
- Manage environmental, health, and financial risks associated with asset failure.

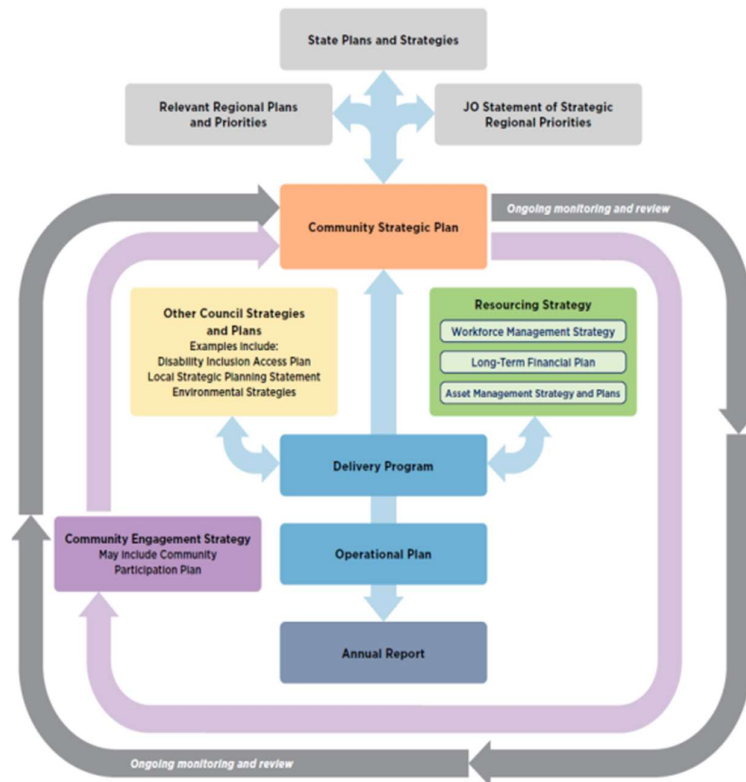


Figure 2 – Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework – NSW

3.2 Strategic Goals and Objectives - CSP

The

3.4 Operational Plan (2025-26) Actions

The Operational Plan 2025–2026 details the specific actions and resource allocations that bring the Delivery Program and the broader Community Strategic Plan (CSP) to life. The Open Space Asset Management Plan both informs and is guided by the Operational Plan, ensuring the identification and delivery of priority actions for the management, renewal, and enhancement of open space infrastructure.

Key activities in the Operational Plan address legislative compliance, ongoing service delivery, asset renewal, and environmental sustainability. These actions enable Council to maintain safe, functional, and attractive open space areas while supporting long-term planning, capital investment, and community wellbeing.



Improvement Opportunity

Ensure all actions outlined in the 2025–2026 Operational Plan are appropriately resourced and delivered within the specified timeframes.

3.6 Recreational Facilities Management Plan (2017–2027/28)

This guiding document outlines Coonamble Shire Council’s strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing public recreational assets—including parks, pools, and other open spaces, over a ten-year horizon.

It includes facility-specific visions, a five-year capital works agenda, clear funding mechanisms (via reserves and grants), and a risk-based framework to ensure safety and sustainability. Recent initiatives proposed range from playground and irrigation enhancements to pool accessibility upgrades and improved streetscape projects.



Improvement Opportunity

Review and update the Recreational Facilities Management Plan 2017–2027/28 to reflect current operational, regulatory, and asset management requirements.

3.7 Coonamble Show

Legislation / Regulation	Description	Relevance to Coonamble Shire Council
Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)	Primary legislation outlining Council's responsibilities for managing public land, including parks, reserves, and recreational facilities.	Defines Council's authority to plan, provide, and manage open space, and sets requirements for classification, use, leasing, and disposal of community land.
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)	Provides the framework for land use planning, zoning, and development controls affecting open space and recreation areas.	Ensures open space planning aligns with broader land use objectives and local zoning requirements.
Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW)	Governs the management and use of Crown land, including reserves and public recreation areas.	Guides how Council manages Crown land vested in its care, ensuring protection of public access and environmental values.
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (NSW)	Regulates activities affecting biodiversity, including vegetation clearing and habitat protection.	Ensures open space activities support conservation outcomes and protect natural habitats.
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (NSW)	Provides environmental protection measures, including controls on pollution and waste management.	Requires Council to implement measures that prevent pollution and maintain environmental quality in open spaces.

help identify emerging issues, and inform long-term planning.

Ongoing stakeholder engagement enables Council to align with government policy, secure funding, manage environmental and cultural considerations, and deliver projects that meet the needs of the Coonamble community.

- **Residents and Property Owners** – Primary users of open space facilities; contribute through regular use, feedback, and reporting of hazards or maintenance needs.
- **NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure** – Oversees policy, regulation, and funding programs relevant to public open space (e.g. Open Spaces Program, Public Spaces Legacy Program).
- **NSW Health** – Ensures public health standards are met for facilities such as public amenities, sporting grounds, and recreational spaces.
- **NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)** – Regulates environmental compliance, including waste management, land use impacts, and pollution prevention in open spaces.
- **Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)** – Provides climate and weather data to support planning for drought, flood, and other climate-related risks.
- **Essential Energy / Utility Providers** – Coordinate service corridor access and infrastructure works affecting open space areas.
- **NSW Public Works Advisory** – Offers technical advice and delivery support for major upgrades, renewals, and emergency works.
- **Office of Open Space and Parklands (within DPE)** – Leads state-wide initiatives for open

4. LEVELS OF SERVICE

Levels of Service define how Coonamble Shire Council delivers open space services to the community, balancing customer expectations, available resources, and long-term sustainability of assets. They provide a clear framework that translates community priorities into measurable outcomes, ensuring that parks, playgrounds, sportsgrounds, and recreational facilities are safe, functional, and accessible.

For open space services, Levels of Service are considered at two levels:

- **Customer Levels of Service**, which describe the quality of service experienced by the community, including safety, accessibility, cleanliness, and opportunities for recreation.
- **Technical Levels of Service**, which describe the operational and asset performance standards required to support customer outcomes, such as inspection regimes, maintenance schedules, compliance with standards, and renewal planning.

By establishing and monitoring these Levels of Service, Council can ensure that open space assets remain fit-for-purpose, equitable across townships and villages, and aligned with the community's vision for healthy, active, and connected lifestyles. These indicators also provide a transparent basis for reporting performance, guiding investment decisions, and managing future demand in a cost-effective way.

- **Active Transport Linkages** – Feedback highlighted the importance of walking and cycling paths that connect open spaces, supporting healthier and more active lifestyles.

Improvement Opportunity



Develop and implement an Open Space Strategy that addresses community feedback by upgrading play equipment, improving sportsground maintenance, enhancing amenities, and ensuring equitable access to safe, clean, and well-connected open spaces across the Shire.

6. LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Asset Management Systems

The council currently uses a range of corporate information systems to record and manage asset-related data. These systems are central to the Council's asset management capability, serving as a key platform for informed decision-making, coordination of operations, and performance reporting.

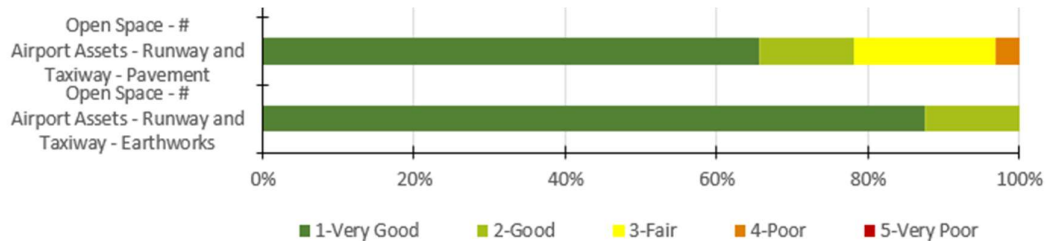
Module	System
Customer Request Management	Practical Plus
Financial/Accounting	Asset Valuer
Records Management	Database – EDMS to be implemented in 21/22
Mapping (GIS)	MapInfo, MapBasic, QGIS, SIX maps
Asset Register	Asset Valuer/ Excel
Mobile Solutions	
Works Management	Practical Plus

Table 7 – Overview of Corporate Systems

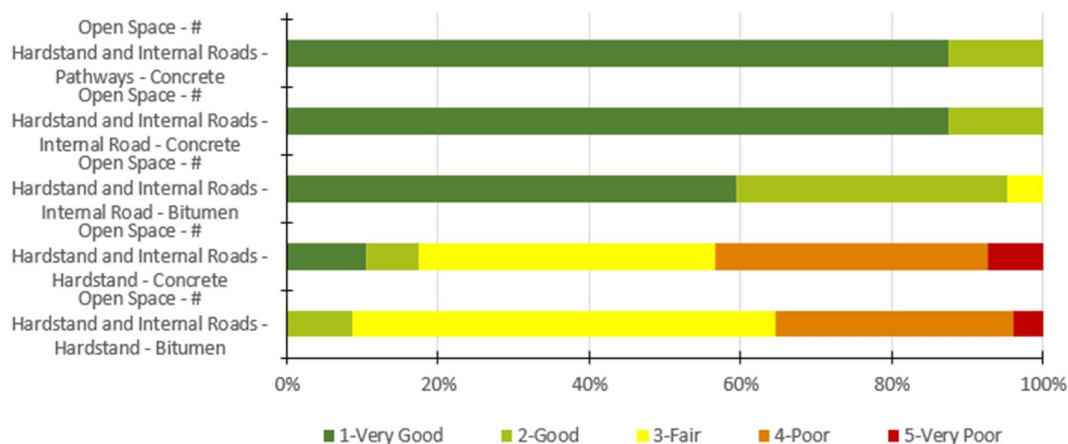
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6.5 Condition – Open Space Assets

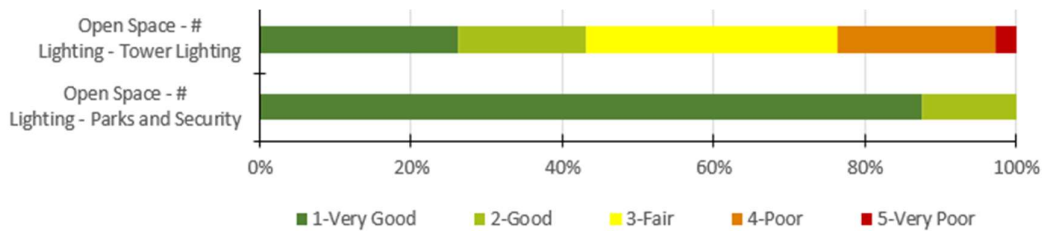
Aerodrome Assets, including runways and taxiways, are predominantly in Very Good to Good condition. A smaller proportion of pavement assets fall into the Fair category, with only minor sections rated as Poor. Overall, the network is performing strongly, with only limited areas requiring attention.



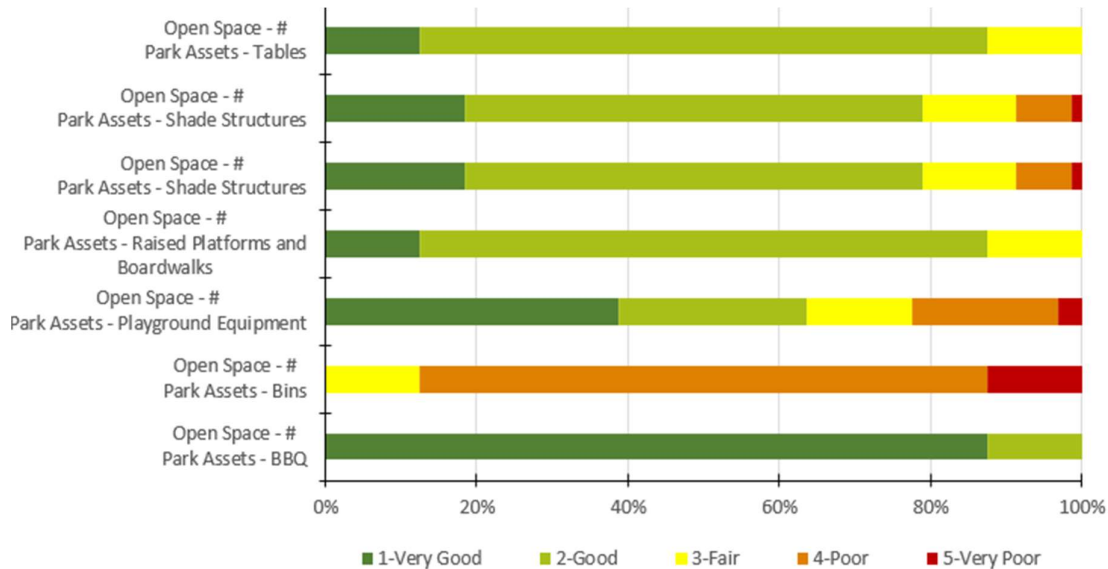
Concrete pathways, internal roads, and hardstands are predominantly in Very Good to Good condition, reflecting strong overall performance. In contrast, bitumen hardstands and internal roads display a much poorer profile, with a large share rated Fair to Very Poor. This highlights the need for targeted renewal and maintenance programs, particularly for bitumen-surfaced assets.



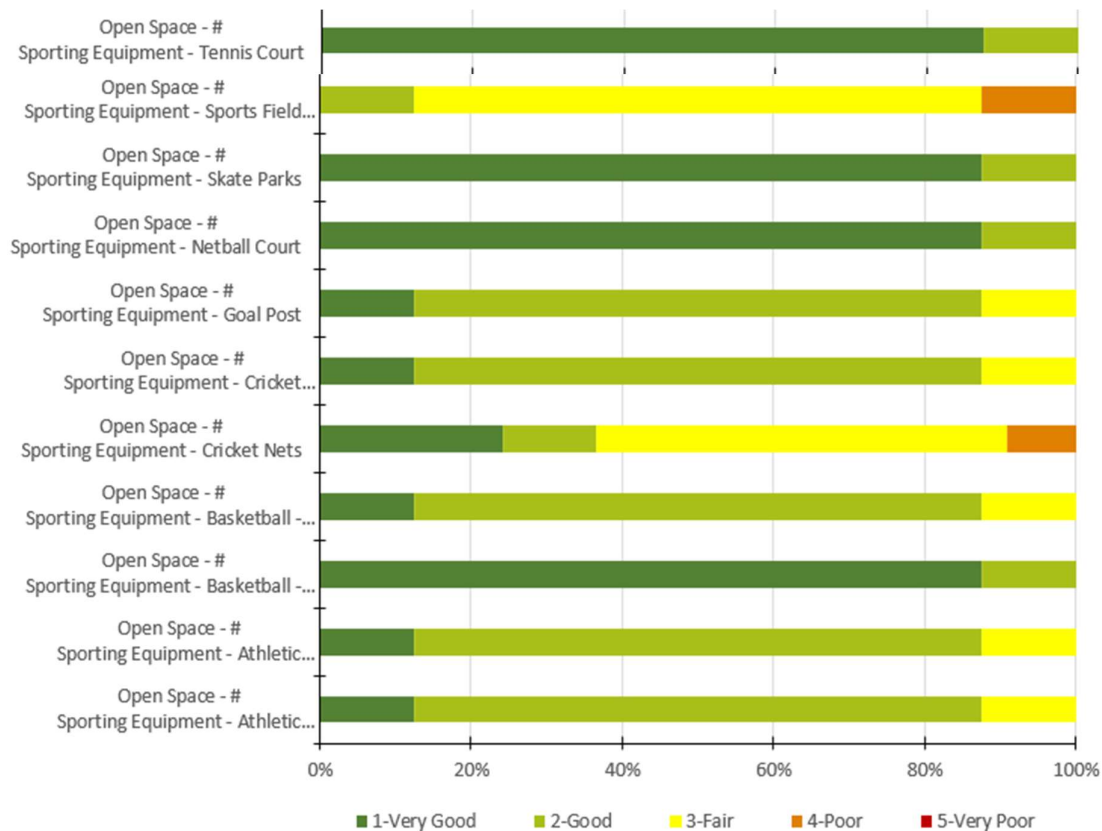
Parks and security lighting assets are almost entirely in Very Good to Good condition, indicating strong performance and minimal immediate renewal needs. In contrast, tower lighting shows a more mixed profile, with assets spread across Good to Fair and a notable proportion rated Poor or Very Poor, highlighting targeted areas where renewal and upgrades will be required.



Park assets present a mixed condition profile. Tables, BBQs, and shade structures are largely in Very Good to Good condition, indicating strong overall performance. Raised platforms, boardwalks, and playground equipment show more assets in the Fair to Poor range, while bins have the poorest profile, with a majority rated Poor to Very Poor. This highlights the need for prioritised renewal of bins and selective upgrades of playground and boardwalk assets.



Most sporting equipment assets, including skate parks, netball and basketball courts, athletics facilities, and goal posts, are in Good to Very Good condition. Sports fields and cricket nets show a higher proportion in the Fair to Poor range, with some assets requiring renewal. Overall, the sporting equipment portfolio is performing well, with isolated areas needing targeted upgrades to maintain safe and functional facilities.



renewal forecasts will be refined to enhance accuracy and optimise investment timing.

The renewal funding projections in this AMP are based on the following key assumptions:

- Renewal costs are derived from the most recent asset register and 2025 valuation data.
- Asset quantities, condition data, and financial information are considered sufficiently accurate for current planning purposes.
- Intervention occurs before assets reach “very poor” condition, balancing community risk, cost, and service outcomes.
- Deterioration curves, intervention triggers, and performance assumptions are based on the CT Management Renewal Model, acknowledging inherent modelling limitations.
- Useful lives reflect Council’s adopted standards for open space assets, such as playgrounds, park furniture, irrigation systems, and recreational facilities.
- Projections are presented in current dollar values (no escalation applied).
- No significant increase in the overall asset base is assumed during the 10-year planning period.
- Service levels are based on current performance and may be reviewed as community expectations, risk profiles, or strategic priorities evolve.

Runway and Taxiway - Earthworks	\$0	\$195,518	\$336,073	\$508,913	\$135,667	\$22,543	\$219,808	\$153,870	\$79,647	\$80,251	\$0	\$1,732,292
Showground Assets	\$0	\$49,412	\$0	\$0	\$161,565	\$24,832	\$0	\$0	\$25,482	\$81,492	\$0	\$342,784
Sporting Equipment	\$32,634	\$66,307	\$261,325	\$85,441	\$2,592,274	\$49,892	\$95,783	\$90,882	\$54,835	\$186,251	\$12,918	\$3,528,544

Environmental degradation or tree failure	Ageing trees, disease, or severe weather	Medium	Tree inspection and pruning program; arborist assessments; prioritised renewal; appropriate species selection.
Non-compliance with legislative or accessibility standards	Outdated infrastructure, lack of awareness, insufficient funding	Medium	Design standards referencing AS 1428 and DDA compliance; integration of universal access in upgrades; staff training.

Table 12 – Risks - Open Space Assets

7.3 Risk Management Framework

Council's risk management approach aligns with the principles of ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management – Guidelines and integrates with Council's Business Continuity Management Framework. Key components include:

- Regular inspection and condition assessment of open space assets.
- Proactive maintenance and renewal programming.
-

8.2 Funding Strategy

Coonamble Shire Council funds Open Space projects through a combination of Council revenue and external grants, with an emphasis on leveraging State and Federal funding opportunities such as the Stronger Country Communities Fund (SCCF). The current capital program includes projects that enhance recreation, public art, safety, and open space amenities across the Shire.

Funding priorities focus on maintaining existing assets, supporting community wellbeing, and delivering new or upgraded facilities in partnership with government and local stakeholders. As financial data and project planning mature, Council will continue to refine its funding approach to ensure long-term sustainability and alignment with community priorities.

Open Space	Park Assets	Playground Equipment	38
Open Space	Park Assets	Raised Platforms and Boardwalks	27
Open Space	Park Assets	Shade Structures	23
Open Space	Park Assets	Shelter	26
Open Space	Park Assets	Tables	28
Open Space	Retaining Walls	Brick	71
Open Space	Retaining Walls	Concrete Block	69
Open Space	Retaining Walls	Rock	82
Open Space	Sporting Equipment	Athletic Surface - Concrete Formed	55
Open Space	Sporting Equipment	Athletic Surface - Rubber Formed	8
Open Space	Sporting Equipment	Basketball - Full Court	39
Open Space	Sporting Equipment	Basketball - Half Court	

