



Clarence Valley Sports Facilities Plan Final Report

STRATEGIC LEISURE GROUP

Planning for Spaces, Places, People

November 2011





Sports Facilities Plan

Final Report

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April 2012

Final

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Sports Facilities Plan investigates sporting facility provision for the communities of Clarence Valley Council.

However, the focus of strategic analysis and recommendations are for major facilities and the established sports identified in Council's brief for the project. This Plan is not intended to be a sport development strategy or to develop directions for the growth of existing sports or support of emerging sports. Some of these issues are, however, considered in the context of providing facilities to 2020.

The study has been based on analysis of previous plans, consultation with stakeholder groups and surveys of sports undertaken by Council. The available information has been considered along with the key strategic issues of:

- Population growth.
- Constraints on community resources and Council's budget.
- Developing sustainable models of facility provision.
- The planning scheme constraints operating in NSW particularly limits on Section 94 contributions.

Following consultation with clubs via submissions, surveys and meetings with sports councils and council officers, information was collated regarding issues and needs. This was matched with additional research on participation trends from ERASS¹ data (see Section 2.3) and discussions with State Sporting Organisations to identify major strategic drivers. In addition, the inventory of facilities was compiled and used to assess current supply and potential to meet future demand.

Council's brief required that the following sports be considered in the Plan

- AFL
- Athletics
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Football (Soccer)
- Netball
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Softball
- Squash
- Tennis

¹ Exercise Recreation and Sport Survey- undertaken by Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport.

Other Sports are discussed in the Plan where they have provided information on their current facility use or have highlighted emerging issues or strategic considerations relevant to facility provision.

These include

- Cycling
- Dragon Boating, Sailing, Other Paddle Sports
- Equestrian
- Futsal
- Gymnastics
- Lawn Bowls
- Rowing
- Swimming
- Touch Football

1.1. Clarence Valley Communities and Sporting Provision

Analysis of current supply and the future needs for Clarence Valley Communities has been undertaken in accordance with the existing structure of the communities. This means that while the provision of sporting facilities and opportunities at a local or local community level is significant, it is also true that participation in competitive sport is highly mobile with regular travel required for most sports. The regional context is therefore far more relevant to competitive sport.

In addition, competitive participation will not be confined to within the LGA² boundary or within any arbitrary planning boundary established for this plan. Demand impact in Clarence Valley will be driven by transport catchments and the dispersed nature of the population. For competitive sport to be sustainable demand therefore spreads to the whole local government area and beyond.

Table 1 Local Vs. LGA Wide Impact from Sport Participation

Demand Type	Local Impact	LGA wide
Exercise related Recreation and Social sport	✓	
Club training and some Junior sport	✓	
Club Competition and Sporting carnivals etc.		✓

1.1.1. Hierarchy of provision

While facility demand for competition level sport is spread across the whole LGA, there is a level of provision which could be argued to be above local and below that of LGA wide. This occurs when facilities which are higher cost and rely on larger population catchments for viability (such as

² Local Government Area

aquatic centres) are provided as district or “sub-regional” hubs serving several surrounding communities. These facilities will also serve competition needs which include visiting teams from outside the “district” catchment.

To accommodate these three levels of effective provision level it is proposed that current and future supply be considered according to the following hierarchy:

Table 2 Hierarchy of Sports Facility Supply

Hierarchy	Description	Example
Local	Facility which predominantly serves demand within a local community or township. High use for social sport or training. Limited inter-club competition.	Lawrence Cricket Oval
District	Facility which serves a cluster of communities/ townships with a mix of local training or social use and inter-club completion.	McIntosh Oval, Coutts Crossing
Regional/ LGA Wide	Facility which is used by residents from numerous communities and has a high focus on staging competition for multiple teams. Also includes facilities which are the only facility for a particular sport within the LGA or are the main location for the staging of competitive events.	Ellem Oval /Upper Fisher Pk, Grafton

1.2. Summary of Current Supply

Supply of facilities is distributed throughout the LGA with a concentration of facilities in Grafton which is the regional centre. In general most facilities outside of Grafton are serving a district or local need only.

Supply has been summarised using the following planning regions or Districts:

- Grafton
- Grafton South
- Grafton Surrounds
- Iluka-Woombah
- Yamba- Angourie- Wooloweyah
- Maclean- Townsend- Gulmarrad
- Rural Coast
- Rural South West
- Rural North West

1.2.1. Supply of Land and Facilities

Land supply for sport is summarised in the following table. However it should be remembered that the quantum of land shown is that of the whole reserve which contains a sports facility, in some cases part of the reserve is not functional for sport and contains vegetated, riparian or other “conservation” uses.



Figure 1 Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club

Table 3 Summary of Sporting Land and Facilities

District/ Planning Region (population 2006)	Land Ha	Facilities							
		Fields (AFL, Cricket, RU/RL, Football, Hockey, etc)	Outdoor Courts (NB and BB)	Tennis courts	Pools	Indoor sports courts	Equestrian	Water sport (sailing, surf, rowing etc)	Other
Grafton (9963)	20.8	11	20	17	1 (50m)	3	2	2 sailing 1 rowing	11 squash 1 motor sport 1 dog racing Golf (9)
Grafton South (6279)	56.52	14	2	2	1 (25m)	0	1	0	2 lawn bowls 1 BMX Golf (18)
Grafton Surrounds (6221)	53.46	10	0	8	1 (20 m)	0	1	0	1 athletics 1 croquet 2 squash Golf (9 Hole) 1 Cycling (criterion) 2 shooting
Iluka-Woombah (2531)	45.8	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	Golf (18) 2 Lawn Bowls
Yamba- Angourie- Woolaweyah (6120)	30.41	10	1	8	1 (25m)	2	0	2	Golf (18) 2 squash 4 lawn bowls 25m "rock pool" near surf club.

District/ Planning Region (population 2006)	Land Ha	Facilities							
		Fields (AFL, Cricket, RU/RL, Football, Hockey, etc)	Outdoor Courts (NB and BB)	Tennis courts	Pools	Indoor sports courts	Equestrian	Water sport (sailing, surf, rowing etc)	Other
Maclean- Townsend- Gulmarrad (4163)	15.24	13	9	6	1 (50)	3	1	0	Golf (18) 3 lawn bowls 1 Dirt Bikes
Rural Coast (6624)	96.54	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	Golf (9) 2 lawn bowls
Rural South West (3616)	1.28	0	0	2	1 (18m)	0	0	0	1 canoe (private)
Rural North West (2602)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:

Some fields are shared use and if used by different sports in opposite seasons (contra-season) then they are counted twice (e.g. 1 for rugby league in winter and 1 for cricket in summer)

Private learn to swim pools are not counted.

Rural North West and Rural South West are predominantly dispersed populations with only a few villages of any population density.

2. DEMAND AND ISSUES ANALYSIS

2.1. SUMMARY BY SPORT

The following points summarise current issues and forward planning considerations for the sports defined in Council's brief.

The information has been sourced from interviews, comments from Council Officers, meetings with local sports councils, surveys and interviews of State Sporting Organisations³. The survey of clubs was conducted by Council with follow up calls and reminders prompting clubs over a 6 week period. The survey responses are explored in detail in Appendix One.

The information collected includes sports additional to the core sports being investigated for this study. Having received the information it was seen as useful to report it.

ATHLETICS

- Sport growth across the state linked to areas that have access to synthetic tracks.
- Increasing demands from clubs and schools for access to synthetic tracks.
- Athletics NSW will support partnerships to develop synthetic tracks.
- Currently no State facility development strategy but the SSO's priority is to increase synthetic track provision (currently none north of Newcastle).
- Grafton Athletics Club would like to see continued investment in Barrier Park:
 - Better spectator and participant facilities/ amenities
 - Higher quality grass track (400m x 8 lane)
 - Improved lighting and drainage
- Grafton Athletics Club believe that Barrier Park could become a regional level, good and heavily used venue with the upgrades.
- Grafton Athletics experiencing some growth with 132 members in 2010 but do not expect any significant growth without further facility improvements.

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

- Northern NSW AFL indicates that the sport is experiencing growth with Clarence Valley Region one of the strongest areas.
- Major issue for growth is access to suitable fields to support junior sport development.
- Would like to have a location in South Grafton for Auskick program to complement Ellem Oval programs.
- Considering a part time Development Officer to work in the region.
- No clubs responded to survey.
- Provision as shared use with Cricket continues to work well.

³ The comments from SSOs is contained in Appendix Two. Some SSO's were unresponsive and did not provide information . A maximum of three attempts was made to contact them .

- Principal facility Ellem Oval and Fisher Park should continue to be developed.
- Council has identified competing issues and use with equestrian and rugby league at Maclean Showgrounds if to be considered as a future facility for AFL.
- Master plan under development for Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex to include AFL field.
- Planning to introduce a Yamba-based Club.

BASEBALL

- Not present in region.

BASKETBALL

- State Sporting Organisation (SSO) indicates some growth in Grafton but believes no further growth possible without additional indoor courts.
- SSO believes there is an immediate need for new indoor courts in the region.
- Major issue at Grafton centre is the inability to grow junior sport due to lack of indoor courts.
- The impact of BER funding and school sports halls resulting from this will assist with growth to some extent but competition growth relies on having multi-court facilities to provide central competition.
- No clubs responded to survey and the only Basketball NSW sanctioned competition is in Grafton.
- ERASS statistics indicate that Basketball is declining and only 2.4% of 15+ population are playing the sport (this may not pick up social sport). Children's participation has declined by nearly half from 7.7% in 2003 to 3.8% in 2006. On state participation rates this means roughly 178 children (5-11 years) and 681 adults (12-59 years) would be likely to play Basketball from a LGA population of 48,148 (2006).
- Some indication of correlation of sport growth with indoor centres. Grafton, Maclean and Yamba have indoor courts.
- Unlikely to be any increase in demand for outdoor courts except as multi-use active recreation facilities for local communities.

CRICKET

- Provision of fields across LGA is reasonable with shared use being the main approach.
- Only a few turf wickets provided however these are available to 2nd grade teams.
- Clubs in Lower Clarence had difficulty adjusting to use fees introduced by Council.
- Indoor Cricket seen as potential boost to sport through social provision (indoor centre now at Wherrett Park Maclean).
- Cricket participation appears to be increasing according to ERASS with state participation going up to 3.2% from 2.8% (15+ years) and children's participation (5-14 years) remaining relatively static at 5.1% for NSW.
- Club and community responses indicate the major need is the improvement of player and spectator facilities at existing fields.

- Additional fields are needed to support growth in Grafton,(JJ Lawrence and revamped Ellem Oval). Key improvements are sight screens shade, toilets/change, parking, spectator facilities.
- Key focus areas for improvement are: Yamba Oval, Ngayundi Yamba Complex, Wherrett Park, McKittrick Park-JJ Lawrence Fields and Ellem Oval.
- Cricket has identified a need to master plan JJ Lawrence Fields to reorganise ovals and fields and use the space more effectively.

DRAGON BOATING, ROWING , SAILING, WATERSPORTS

- Dragon Boat Club currently based at Maclean and another in Grafton.
- Club has had high growth and believes the sport has strong potential due to river and waterway resources in the region.
- Would like to establish dedicated facility in Yamba area.
- Identified that managing sporting activity on river needs better coordination between, sailing, skiing, paddling, power boats.
- River sports have major potential for development in the region and a coordinated strategy is needed.
- Council is considering the potential for expanded sailing to be provided for in the northern end of Corcoran Park in conjunction with existing yacht club base. If sailing from near bridge is to be considered for relocation won't occur until RTA resolve bridge crossing and an equivalent or similar facility provided elsewhere.. Mixed views in Club currently on this. The old sailing club may be an opportunity to develop a base for paddle sports.
- Surf Lifesaving established at Yamba and club has experienced substantial growth
- Major facility issue for Yamba SLSC is storage. They have been trying for some time to get approval to build additional storage at Turners Beach.
- New surf club now at Minnie Water.

EQUESTRIAN

- The major regional facility is at Hawthorne Rodeo Park with seven clubs sharing and holding events and more than 1000 riders using the facility.
- Equestrian sports are very active with survey responses received from four clubs.
- Improved amenities, power upgrades, lighting and the development of a covered arena are major priorities.
- Development of additional arenas at Hawthorne Rodeo Park also important over the longer term.
- All groups support the covered arena at Hawthorne Rodeo Park but no feasibility yet undertaken.
- Complete the new dressage arena as a priority.
- There are issues at Small Park (Ulmurra) and Maclean Showgrounds with field sports and equestrian sports sharing space.

FOOTBALL (SOCCER)

- Remains one of the most popular junior sports with 19.8% of children playing soccer and 7% of adults.
- Some clubs experiencing growth.
- Club submissions indicated that improving player and spectator amenities along with improved field lighting were major priorities.
- Drainage and playing surface condition an issue for some locations (Wherrett Park).
- Rushforth Park, Wherrett Park, Barnier Park and Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex main locations for competition.
- Mostly junior participation and demand.
- Major focus for facility upgrade is Rushforth Park with lighting upgrades needed as a priority. Also upgraded amenities and canteen
- Provision of lighting at JJ Lawrence would increase capacity for training use.

GOLF

- Supply of golf facilities in Clarence Valley seen as adequate by SSO.
- No strategic facility needs identified.
- Submissions indicate that smaller local courses struggle with numbers and that facility upgrades (amenities) may improve patronage.

GYMNASTICS

- Gymnastics NSW indicate there is growth in the sport but Children's Participation in Sport Data (2009) (see Section 2.4) suggests a decline.
- Facilities are major barrier to growth and trying to develop the sport in a shared facility is not a preferred model.
- 1 club operating in the region which needs a better standard facility to allow for growth (currently operating at Grafton Lifestyle Centre).
- Gymnastics ranks 9th overall for participation for all children. For girls it is the 3rd (7.6%) most popular sport (swimming is 1st at 19.8%, Netball 2nd at 17%). yet in terms of funding for facilities and support for access to multi-use facilities, it falls far behind lower participation sports such as tennis, soccer, hockey, and basketball.

HOCKEY

- Membership mostly static for the last few years and minimal growth anticipated. Hockey is very well supported in Grafton and is one of the major sports in the LGA.
- Fisher Park is the sport's major facility with planned upgrade of second synthetic pitch increasing capacity to stage events.

- Redevelopment proposal for Fisher Park has recently been funded and a new integrated facility plan will see sharing of built facilities between cricket, AFL, Hockey and Tennis. This will address the main goal to upgrade clubhouse and bunkhouse facility.
- Shared turf fields (Cricket and AFL) need some drainage improvements to reduce down times on the playing surface.
- Some consideration of interface with showgrounds and overall master planning required.

NETBALL

- Young girl's participation remains static but women's participation is declining. Possible link to increased demand for social sport and provision of social netball in centres not affiliated with netball NSW.
- Main venue for competition is Westward Park Grafton and Wherrett Park Maclean with grass fields only at Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex.
- Major issue to accommodate growth of sport is provision of additional courts at the main venues and to convert from grass to hard courts with appropriate surfacing and lighting.
- Westward and Wherrett Parks have a high need for conversion of some grass courts to hardcourt.
- Full conversion of at least four hardcourts initially next to indoor sports centre at Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex currently using school facility.
- Local training provision needed in smaller towns.

RUGBY LEAGUE

- Clubs not anticipating significant growth.
- Children's Participation data (2006) indicates some minor growth in 2006 from 2003. NSW participation also higher than national average.
- Several facilities used for training and competition.
- North Park requires upgrades to make playing surface suitable (former landfill site). May be needed for competition uses if sport grows. North Park is close to Frank McGurren and the two could be considered together as a "precinct" for Rugby League catering for future growth.
- Frank McGurren Field needs playing surface improvement and is a premier competition venue. However, no additional space is available for additional fields and parking is constrained.
- Rugby League use McKittrick Park and potential exists to expand the sport at the McKittrick Park-JJ Lawrence Fields facility and integrate with Oztag, Touch, Soccer and Netball .
- Wherrett Park is a heavily used venue but improved drainage and spectator facilities required.
- Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex fenced field has a high need for amenities, toilets and some improvements to playing surface including drainage.

RUGBY UNION

- Some minor growth in seniors indicated by clubs but no junior growth.
- ERASS indicates participation in NSW has remained static over time (1% in 2003 and 1% in 2009) however an increase was registered in 2008 (1.6%).
- Major venue is Hay St fields and the major need there appears to be improvement of playing surface and additional spectator facilities.
- Yamba Oval is the main venue for Lower Clarence.
- Both Grafton and Yamba have in the past been active in seeking improvements to facilities.
- Iluka oval also hosts training and competition uses but needs lighting that is underway.

SOFTBALL

- SSO indicates that no clubs currently exist in Clarence Valley; however there was previously a regional competition.
- Softball NSW wants to re-establish a competition in the area in the next 5 years.
- Land to host softball competition would be an issue and it is suggested that they could share with Baseball.
- May need to plan establishment at some shared fields/ school fields. No locations suggested at the moment.
- Could consider Hawthorne Park as potential location for establishing shared use in the longer term.

SQUASH

- No responses were received from Squash clubs or the SSO.
- Squash has a history of being provided by private sector but small squash centres are disappearing and not commercially viable. Emerging models of provision are squash courts as part of larger multi facility/ multi-sport centres (both commercial and public).
- ERASS data indicates there may be a slight increase in participation in NSW. 1.8% of the 15+ age group participating.
- Benchmarking data recently completed for another study looked at provision in South-East Qld and Northern NSW and found rates of 1 court to 10,850 people for Gold Coast and 1 court to 7,500 people in Lismore. Clarence Valley Council has a current provision rate of 1 court per 3,470 people. This suggests that there is no undersupply in the region.
- Future viability of the sport will rely on centres being established as part of larger multisport centres or as multi-court venues (8 courts or more) which deliver better "income to cost" results. This would probably be facilitated by closure of smaller centres creating demand or by smaller centres actively relocating in partnership with larger multi-sport facilities.

- Council recently built three courts as part of Maclean Indoor Sports Centre. Big River Squash in Grafton has converted some of their courts to fitness areas.

SWIMMING

- Currently six pools service the community of which only two are 50 m and two are 25 m. The remainder are smaller program pools.
- Swimming NSW asserts the sport is growing particularly in learn to swim and adult swim areas.
- National participation figures demonstrate a decline in competitive swimming but venue trends are suggesting that recreational fitness use is increasing. Children's participation has increased to 18.5% (from 17.4% in 2006)⁴.
- Swimming remains very high on the list of sports for participation with 14.5% (2009) of the 15+ population in NSW participating. However ERASS reported 16.1% in the prior year (2008)⁵ which still indicates a declining trend. The 2009 figure still means that across the council area more than 5215⁶ adults are using pools regularly. The figure for children is similar with 18.5 % of 5-17 year olds swimming, delivering an additional 1694 participants.
- Swimming NSW reports general trends of councils struggling with maintenance of "post war" pools and the need to plan for replacement and contemporary facilities.
- Clubs are indicating to Swimming NSW that increasing commercial management of aquatic facilities is impacting on club access for competitive swimming and the SSO has established a company to address this issue and possibly tender for management of pools.
- Current facility levels are most likely sufficient over the next 10 years with no evident need for additional 50 m capacity.
- Grafton Aquatic Centre has been upgraded with new entry and amenities and will have the capacity to host major events. 50 metre pool is older style that needs monitoring for water loss.

TENNIS

- Tennis NSW has a strategic Facility Development Plan responding to Tennis Australia Initiatives.
- Court provision is well dispersed across Clarence Valley but the focus of Tennis Australia and NSW planning is the establishment of quality regional facilities as well as retention and improvement of facilities at local levels.
- Grant funds are available for partnership projects. Grafton Club has taken advantage of the court rebate program funding.
- Fisher Park has been identified as a regional project for tennis and is being upgraded to provide improved facilities.

⁴ Children's Participation in Sport- ABS 2009 - See Section 2.4

⁵ ERASS 2009, 2008

⁶ Proportion used based on 18+ age group from 2006

- Potential also exists for Grafton (Fisher Park -15 courts) and Junction Hill (4 courts) Clubs to jointly identify as a regional hub (requires 18 courts of which 14 should be the same surface) under Tennis Australia Guidelines. Potential could also include Waterview Heights courts when renovated if hardcourt used.

TOUCH FOOTBALL AND OZTAG

- Yamba Touch indicated it has not grown over the last 3 years but anticipates growth over the next 3 years.
- General trends in participation would suggest that touch and Oztag will experience growth as they provide a social sport option and have smaller team number requirements than some of the other field sports.
- Touch and Oztag are played in Yamba, McLean and Grafton on a range of shared venues.
- Major facility issues cited were concerns regarding playing surfaces and amenities at grounds.

2.2. FUTURE PROVISION PLANNING

2.2.1. POPULATION GROWTH AND IMPLICATIONS

Population growth over the next 10 years (to 2021) is summarised in the following table⁷. The main implications are included in the table to define the growth impacts for each planning region.

District/ Planning Region (estimated 2009 population)	2021 population	Growth	Implications for provision
Grafton (10,100)	10595	495	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand from local growth easily managed with current supply. • Surrounding growth will have considerable impact with total demand from 4,554 new residents having an impact on regional and district facilities.
Grafton South (6,400)	7166	766	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing supply able to accommodate local growth but regional/ surrounding demand will have a significant impact on facilities.
Grafton Surrounds (6,318)	9611	3,293	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant growth in this area with much of the demand impacting on district and regional facilities in the greater Grafton area. • Will need to focus on upgrading facilities in Coutts Crossing and Junction Hill for local/ district demand. • Provision in Waterview Heights (678 additional residents) will need to consider local demand and increasing capacity at Caramana Park
<i>Greater Grafton (the above three areas)</i>	27,372	4,554	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to generate additional sports field demand which could be met by improving capacity at existing fields with lighting and playing surface upgrades • Indoor court capacity may be insufficient depending on Schools provision resulting from BER⁸.

⁷ A more detailed review can be found in Section 4.2 of the Open Space Strategy

District/ Planning Region (estimated 2009 population)	2021 population	Growth	Implications for provision
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor court demand for tennis and netball likely to need a response.
Iluka-Woombah (2,593)	3,544	951	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth should be accommodated at existing facilities but some upgrading may be required. Master planning for Iluka sports fields should consider playing surface and lighting upgrades.
Yamba- Angourie- Woolaweyah (6,410)	7,904	1,494	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will generate additional demand for field sport and court sport. Existing facilities will be sufficient with upgrading (lights, playing surface, Amenities). Additional consideration is the increased role of Yamba for competition hosting and need for spectator facilities. Current master planning for Yamba Ngayundi complex should consider identified demand areas of sport courts and improving multi-use of field sports.
Maclean- Townsend- Gulmarrad (4,842)	6,744	1,902	<p>Will generate increased field and court sport demand. Maclean will be major hub for sport.</p> <p>Master planning Wherrett Park to accommodate growth will be critical.</p> <p>Should consider overall service catchment overlap with Yamba and differentiate investment in upgrades.</p> <p>Consider future of undeveloped sports land in Townsend and role in servicing this and the Rural Coast catchments.</p>
Rural Coast (4,769)	5,555	786	Limited local provision in existing towns. Growth will place pressure on facilities in Lawrence and Maclean.
Rural South West (3,650)	3942	86	Limited growth projected around Glenreagh. Local provision to be considered.
Rural North West (2,620)	2661	69	Limited growth at Copmanhurst. No impact on provision
Totals	57,544	9,842	

2.3. SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

ERASS data⁹ presents the following key findings in relation to participation in exercise, recreation and sport in Australia:

- An estimated 8.2 million persons aged 15 years and over participated at least three times per week (regular participation rate), on average, in physical activity. This equates to 49.3% of the population and represents a 12% increase from 2001.

⁸ Building Education Revolution and Stimulus Funding for School sports halls

⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics: Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Annual Report. Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport 2009

- While females participated in physical activity more regularly than males, males participated for a longer duration.
- The top ten exercise, recreation and sport activities most frequently participated in by Australians aged 15 years and over are walking, aerobics/ fitness, swimming, cycling, running, golf, tennis, bushwalking, outdoor football and netball.
- Participation in aerobics/ fitness increased the most (101% increase). Participation in walking, outdoor football, running, and cycling also increased by large amounts.
- Participation in tennis and golf decreased (21% and 11% respectively).
- 38.9% of the population regularly participated in non-organised physical activity (at least 3 times a week)
- Females had higher regular participation rates in non-organised physical activity (42.5%) than males (35.3%).
- 12.3% of the population regularly participated in organised physical activity (at least 3 times a week).
- The total participation rate in club-based physical activity was 24.9%, with a regular participation rate (at least 3 times per week) of 6.4%.
- More men participated in regular club-based physical activity (8.6%) compared to women (4.4%).
- The top ten club-based physical activities in 2009 were golf, outdoor football, tennis, netball, Australian rules football, lawn bowls, outdoor cricket, basketball, touch football and martial arts.

Of these top ten activities, martial arts (-51%), touch football (-16%) and tennis (-10%) had the greatest decline in participation between 2001 and 2009.

An indication of likely demand increase from population growth can be gained by use of the ERASS data for NSW in 2009 and a subsequent projection based on NSW participation rates.

NEW SOUTH WALES

From ERASS data¹⁰, the top ten exercise, recreation and sport activities most frequently participated in by New South Wales residents aged 15 years and over are:

1. Walking (35.8%)
2. Aerobics/ fitness (22.4%)
3. Swimming (14.5%)
4. Running (10.7%)
5. Cycling (9.0%)
6. Football (outdoor) (7.0%)
6. Golf (7.0%)
8. Tennis (6.6%)
9. Walking (bush) (5.5%)
10. Basketball (3.8%)

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics: Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Annual Report. (Standing Committee on Recreation and Sport) 2009

Of the most popular activities, women have higher rates of participation in walking (other), aerobics/ fitness, netball and yoga, whereas men have higher rates of participation in cycling, golf, football (outdoor) and surf sports. The table following outlines participation rates in further detail.

For **New South Wales males** aged 15 years and over the top 10 activities are:

1. Walking (other than bushwalking) (26.7%)
2. Aerobics/ fitness (16.7%)
3. Swimming (14%)
4. Running (13.3%)
5. Cycling (12.6%)
6. Golf (11.6%)
7. Football (outdoor) (10.7%)
8. Tennis (7.3%)
9. Walking (bush) (6.4%)
10. Surf Sports (6.1%)

For **New South Wales females** aged 15 years and over the top 10 activities are:

1. Walking (44.5%)
2. Aerobics/ fitness (27.9%)
3. Swimming (15.1%)
4. Running (8.2%)
5. Netball (6.5%)
6. Tennis (5.9%)
7. Cycling (5.6%)
8. Walking (bush) (4.6%)
9. Yoga (4.2%)
10. Football (outdoor) (4.1%)

Table 4: Participation rate (%) for the top 20 exercise, recreation and sporting activities most frequently participated in by **New South Wales** residents aged 15 years and over (2001-2009)¹¹

ACTIVITY	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005		2004		2003		2002		2001	
	Rate (%)	Rank																
Walking (other than bushwalking)	35.8	1	38.3	1	36.1	1	33.8	1	36.6	1	37.2	1	36.0	1	29	1	26.8	1
Aerobics/ fitness	22.4	1	23.2	2	19.8	2	18.7	2	18.5	2	16.0	3	16.2	3	14.3	3	12.5	3
Swimming	14.5	3	16.1	3	13.8	3	15.4	3	16.4	3	18.3	2	17.5	2	17.0	2	19.0	2
Running	10.7	4	10.2	4	7.3	5	7.5	=5	7.1	7	8.0	7	7.1	7	7.6	7	7.0	7
Cycling	9.0	5	9.9	5	8.3	4	8.8	4	8.9	5	9.1	5	7.7	6	8.3	6	7.9	6
Football (outdoor)	7.0	=6	7.0	9	5.9	8	5.9	8	5.7	9	6.2	9	5.3	9	6.1	9	4.7	9
Golf	7.0	=6	7.7	6	5.6	9	7.5	=5	7.6	6	8.7	6	8.4	5	9.1	4	8.4	5
Tennis	6.6	8	7.5	7	6.7	6	7.4	7	9.1	4	9.8	4	9.8	4	9.0	5	11.0	4
Walking (bush)	5.5	9	7.1	8	6.2	7	5.0	9	7.0	8	6.3	8	6.8	8	6.6	8	6.6	8
Basketball	3.8	10	2.4	16	2.7	=19	2.5	17	2.9	14	2.6	17	3.3	=11	3.5	12	2.7	14
Touch football	3.6	11	5.0	10	3.6	10	4.0	10	3.2	=12	3.5	=11	3.6	10	4.0	11	3.4	=10
Surf Sports	3.5	12	2.8	14	2.8	12	3.3	11	3.3	11	4.4	10	2.9	13	2.9	14	3.4	=10
Netball	3.4	13	2.3	=17	2.4	15	3.1	12	3.2	=12	2.9	=14	2.8	=14	3.4	13	3.3	12
Cricket (outdoor)	2.8	=14	3.2	13	2.7	=13	3.1	13	2.2	=17	3.2	13	2.6	17	2.8	=15	2.9	13
Weight Training	2.8	=14	3.3	12	1.9	=16	2.8	15	1.4	-	3.0	14	2.7	16	1.6	-	2.6	15
Rugby League	2.4	=16	1.6	-	1.8	18	1.8	-	2.1	19	1.6	-	1.6	-	1.3	-	1.9	=20
Yoga	2.4	=16	3.6	11	3.1	11	3.0	=13	3.9	10	3.5	=11	3.3	=11	4.1	10	1.9	=20
Fishing	2.3	18	2.3	=17	1.6	19	2.1	20	2.0	20	2.0	=20	2.1	=20	1.8	-	2.6	16
Dancing	2.1	=19	2.2	=19	1.5	20	2.7	16	2.4	=15	2.9	=14	2.5	18	2.4	=18	2.1	19
Football (indoor)	2.1	=19	2.1	-	1.4	-	1.7	-	1.6	-	1.7	-	1.8	-	1.8	-	0.8	-

* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution; ** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Table 5: **Top 10** exercise, recreation and sporting activities for **New South Wales Men and Women** aged 15 yrs and over (2009)¹²

ACTIVITY	FEMALES - Participation Rate (%) & Rank		MALES - Participation Rate (%) & Rank	
	2009		2009	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
Walking (other than bushwalking)	44.5	1	26.7	1
Aerobics/ fitness	27.9	2	16.7	2
Swimming	15.1	3	14.0	3
Running	8.2	4	13.3	4
Cycling	5.6	7	12.6	5
Football (outdoor)	4.1	10	10.0	7
Golf	2.5	-	11.6	6
Tennis	5.9	6	7.3	8
Walking (bush)	4.6	8	6.4	9
Netball	6.5	5	0.2**	-
Yoga	4.2	9	0.6*	-
Surf Sports	0.9*	-	6.1	10

* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution; ** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Table 6: Participation rates in the top 10 exercise, recreation and sporting activities most frequently participated in by **New South Wales Males** aged 15 yrs and over (2001-2009)¹³

ACTIVITY	MALES - Participation Rate (%) & Rank																	
	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005		2004		2003		2002		2001	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
Walking (other than bushwalking)	26.7	1	27.1	1	24.1	1	23.1	1	25.2	1	24.9	1	26.1	1	21.2	1	17.3	1
Aerobics/fitness	16.7	2	19.1	2	15.9	2	14.7	2	15.1	3	12.3	5	12.4	4	11.6	5	8.7	7
Swimming	41.0	3	15.7	3	13.9	3	14.6	3	15.4	2	18.0	2	16.7	2	18.2	2	18.2	2
Running	13.3	4	12.6	6	9.5	5	10.6	6	8.5	7	10.4	7	10.5	7	10.6	6	8.8	6
Cycling	12.6	5	14.8	4	11.5	4	11.9	5	12.4	4	12.4	4	11.4	5	12.4	4	11.5	5
Golf	11.6	6	12.7	5	8.6	7	12.2	4	11.8	5	14.7	3	14.1	3	14.7	3	14.1	3
Football (outdoor)	10.0	7	10.3	7	9.3	6	9.1	7	8.4	8	9.0	8	8.4	8	9.5	7	6.7	8
Tennis	7.3	8	8.2	8	7.9	8	7.8	7	9.8	6	11.0	6	10.9	6	9.3	8	11.6	4
Walking (bush)	6.4	9	6.1	10	5.3	=9	4.3	11	6.5	9	6.3	10	7.2	9	5.5	9	5.8	10
Surf Sports	6.1	10	4.7	=12	4.9	10	5.8	10	5.8	10	7.4	9	5.2	10	4.7	12	6.6	9

* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution; ** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Table 7: Participation rates in the top 10 exercise, recreation and sporting activities most frequently participated in by **New South Wales Females** aged 15 yrs and over (2001-2009)¹⁴

ACTIVITY	FEMALES - Participation Rate (%) & Rank																	
	2009		2008		2007		2006		2005		2004		2003		2002		2001	
	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank	Rate	Rank
Walking (other than bushwalking)	44.5	1	49	1	38.8	1	44.1	1	47.8	1	49.4	1	45.7	1	36.6	1	36.1	1
Aerobics/fitness	27.9	2	27.1	2	23.6	2	22.6	2	21.8	2	19.7	2	19.9	2	17.0	2	16.2	3
Swimming	15.1	3	16.5	3	13.6	3	16.1	3	17.5	3	18.5	3	18.4	3	15.9	3	19.7	2
Running	8.2	4	7.9	5	5.3	=6	5.0	9	5.7	7	5.7	8	3.7	10	4.7	8	5.2	7
Netball	6.5	5	4.3	9	4.5	8	5.6	7	5.3	9	5.2	9	5.3	=6	6.4	7	5.6	6
Tennis	5.9	6	6.9	6	5.6	5	7.1	4	8.4	4	8.7	4	8.7	4	8.7	4	10.4	4
Cycling	5.6	7	5.3	8	5.3	=6	5.9	5	5.6	8	5.9	6	4.2	8	4.6	9	4.3	8
Walking (bush)	4.6	8	8.1	4	7.1	4	5.7	6	7.6	5	6.2	5	6.4	5	7.6	5	7.3	5
Yoga	4.2	9	6.5	7	5.0	7	5.5	8	6.4	6	5.9	=6	5.3	=6	6.8	6	3.1	10
Football (outdoor)	4.1	10	3.8	11	2.9	=6	2.9	12	3.0	12	3.5	11	2.4	14	2.8	13	2.7	12

* Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution; ** Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

2.4. CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION IN LEISURE AND SPORT

This information has been summarised from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 'Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities' (October 2009) publication.

Overall Leisure Participation

From ABS data it is estimated that:

- 63% of children participated in organised sport outside of school hours.
- 33% participated in organised cultural activities (selected) outside of school hours.
- 71% of children attended a cultural venue or event outside of school hours.
- 26% did not participate in organised sport or cultural activities.

Trends in Participation

- Participation in organised sport did not increase significantly from 2003 (62%) to 2009 (63%).
- Following a six percentage point increase in the proportion of children who participated in bike riding between 2003 and 2006, there was a significant decline in this participation rate between 2006 and 2009 from 68% to 60%.
- The participation rate for organised cultural activities increased 4 percentage points from 2006 to 2009.
- The percentage of participants accessing the internet increased significantly from 65% in 2006 to 79% in 2009.

Participation in Organised Sport

- In the 12 months to April 2009, an estimated 1.7 million (63%) children participated in sport outside of school hours, which has been organised by a school, club or association.
- Participation in organised sport did not increase significantly from 2003 (62%) to 2009 (63%).
- Boys had a higher participation rate in organised sport compared to girls overall (70% compared with 56%) and across all age groups, with the greatest difference being between 12 to 14 year olds (boys 74% compared with girls 55%).

Most Popular Sport & Cultural Activities

- Overall, the most popular sport and cultural activities were visiting a public library (51.6%), visiting a museum or art gallery (40.9%), attending a performing arts event (29.1%), followed by playing a musical instrument (20%), and swimming (19%).
- The most popular sport and cultural activities for boys were visiting a public library (52%), visiting a museum or art gallery (41%), attending a performing arts event (29%), outdoor soccer (20%), swimming (17%), playing a musical instrument (19%) and Australian Rules Football (16%).
- The most popular sport and cultural activities for girls were public library (56%), visiting a museum or art gallery (42%), attending a performing arts event (38%), dancing (26%), playing a musical instrument (21%), swimming (20%) and netball (17%).

Table 8: Participation rate (%) for the top selected organised cultural activities and organised sports most frequently participated in by children aged 5 to 14 years (2000, 2003, 2006, 2009)¹⁵

ACTIVITY	2009		2006		2003		2000	
	Participation Rate (%)	Rank						
Organised Sport								
Swimming	18.5	1	17.4	1	16.6	1	14.4	1
Soccer (outdoor)	13.2	2	13.2	2	13.4	2	11.4	2
Australian Rules Football	8.6	3	7.5	4	7.3	6	6.6	6
Netball	8.4	4	8.5	3	9.1	3	9.1	3
Tennis	7.9	5	7.3	5	8.6	4	8.5	4
Basketball	7.4	6	6.6	6	7.7	5	7.6	5
Martial Arts	5.7	7	4.5	8	4.9	8	4.0	8
Cricket (outdoor)	5.2	8	5.4	7	5.0	7	5.3	7
Gymnastics	4.6	9	3.5	10	3.5	10	0.9	11
Rugby League	3.6	10	4.2	9	2.9	11	3.6	10
Athletics/track & field	3.3	12	2.9	11	3.8	9	3.9	9
Organised Cultural Activities								
Playing a musical instrument	19.7	1	19.5	1	16.8	1	17.9	1
Dancing	14.3	2	12.5	2	12.4	2	10.4	3
Singing	6.1	3	5.5	3	4.6	3	4.7	2
Drama	4.7	4	4.5	4	4.3	4	4.6	4
Attendance at Cultural Venues and Events								
Visited a public library	53.7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Visited museum or art gallery	41.3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Attended performing arts event	33.6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-

¹⁵ ABS. Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, October 2009.

Table 9: Gender breakdown of participation rates in the top 10 organised sports most frequently participated in by Children aged 5 to 14 years (2009)¹⁶

ACTIVITY	FEMALES Participation Rate (%) & Rank		ACTIVITY	MALES Participation Rate (%) & Rank	
	2009			2006	
	Rate	Rank		Rate	Rank
Swimming	19.8	1	Soccer (outdoor)	19.9	1
Netball	17.0	2	Swimming	17.2	2
Gymnastics	7.6	3	Australian Rules Football	16.0	3
Tennis	6.3	4	Cricket (outdoor)	9.7	4
Basketball	6.3	5	Tennis	9.4	5
Soccer (outdoor)	6.2	6	Basketball	8.5	6
Martial Arts	3.7	7	Martial Arts	7.5	7
Athletics/track and field	3.5	8	Rugby League	7.0	8
Hockey	2.4	9	Soccer (indoor)	4.3	9
Soccer (indoor)	1.3	10	Athletics/ track & field	3.0	10

¹⁶ ABS. Children's Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities, October 2009.

2.5. KEY INFLUENCES IN EMERGING POLICY

2.5.1. THE FUTURE OF SPORT IN AUSTRALIA (THE CRAWFORD REPORT)

In 2009, the Australian Government commissioned the Independent Sport Panel to undertake a review of sport in Australia to “ensure the Australian sporting system remains prepared for future challenges at both the community and elite levels.” The result of this review is The Future of Sport in Australia, also known as The Crawford Report (named after the Independent Sport Panel Chairman, David Crawford).

The report makes a series of recommendations for action by the Australian Government, some of which have relevance to a parks and recreation strategy in Cairns. The following table details these recommendations and discusses the implications for the Cairns Parks and Recreation Strategy.

Table 10: Summary of 'The Future of Sport in Australia'

CHAPTER	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLICATIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGY
1.5: Putting Sport and Physical Activity Back Into Education	The Australian Government should consider the repair, upgrade and development of sport and recreation facilities in schools as an integral part of its education revolution' initiative on the basis that public access to school sporting facilities is maximised.	Council should embrace and capitalise on the State and Federal government's push to ensure school facilities are available for community use.
	The Australian Government and state and territory governments should take action to allow greater access to school (primary and secondary) sporting facilities outside of school hours.	
	Greater community access should be provided to tertiary education and institutional sporting facilities.	
Chapter 1.6: Building Community Sport with People and Places	The Australian Government should develop and fund a national volunteer program for sporting and physical activity organisations that aims to attract and retain volunteers to sport through education, accreditation and recognition and in particular takes account of the potential offered by the growing number of older Australians to become volunteers.	
	The Australian Government, in consultation with the state and territory governments, should develop a strategic national facilities initiative for the funding and development of Australia's community sport and recreation facilities over the next decade.	Council should ensure planning for facilities is kept up-to-date in preparation for future changes in funding for infrastructure.
	In any infrastructure programs, preference should be given to projects that have the potential to engage wide sections of the community, such as multi-sport facilities in proximity to other community infrastructure, to help with sustainability and to increase social capital.	Council's future provision of facilities should focus on multi-purpose and flexible facilities.
Chapter 1.8: Sustaining the Funding Base for Sport	The ASC in conjunction with the Department of Health and Ageing should explore the viability of tax rebates, voucher or another system designed to reduce the cost of participation, and the likely contribution of such schemes to increasing participation levels.	

2.5.2. PLANNING FOR ACTIVE LIVING – A BRIEF REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The benefits of regular physical activity are extensive, and governments at all levels in Australia are increasingly recognising the importance of supporting the community to maintain healthy rates of physical activity participation. The following key strategic documents highlight this important policy shift. Collectively, these documents, in combination with many others, demonstrate the need for local governments to play an important role in encouraging residents to adopt active lifestyles.

- The Australian Government's National Preventative Health Strategy has been developed to "prevent hundreds of thousands of Australians dying prematurely" and aims to halt and reverse the rise in overweight and obesity as one of the four targets of the Strategy. Importantly, increasing physical activity participation levels is a key part of achieving this target.
- Australia's Physical Activity Guidelines provide recommended levels of physical activity for children, adolescents, adults and older Australians including number of minutes of participation, number of days of the week and intensity level.
- The National Heart Foundation of Australia has developed Blueprint for an Active Australia, a document which identifies key government and community actions it believes are required to increase physical activity levels across the population in Australia.
- The Healthy Places and Spaces project, a collaboration between the Planning Institute of Australia, the Local Government Association of Australia and the National Heart Foundation of Australia, has resulted in the development of a planning guide and practical tools to help practitioners to incorporate active living principles into the design of built environments.
- The NSW Department of Local Government, the NSW Health Department, NSW Sport and Recreation and the National Heart Foundation of Australia (NSW Division) collaborated to produce **Creating Active Communities: Physical Activity Guidelines for Local Governments**. This document identifies the key roles of local government in order to encourage residents to be more physically active.
- The Supportive Environments for Physical Activity and Healthy Eating (SEPAHE) Project is a collaborative project which aims to guide local governments to create environments which encourage participation in physical activity and nutrition. The document provides a suite of ways in which local governments can influence the physical activity and healthy eating patterns of residents.

2.5.3. TRENDS INFLUENCING SPORT AND RECREATION PARTICIPATION

The following general trends are evident from demographic data, ABS reporting and studies undertaken for local governments in Queensland and New South Wales:

- The population is ageing and life expectancy is increasing. In 1982 the median age of Australians was 30. By 2020 it is projected to be 40.
- There is a trend towards high school students working part time while studying which has had a significant impact on participation in formal sport.

- Changing patterns of work which include more part time, shift and extended hours of working¹⁷. The resulting declining availability of “uncommitted time” is placing greater importance on the quality of the leisure experience for those in full time employment. Sporting competitions are increasingly being held on mid-week evenings under lights so that participants have their weekends free to pursue other recreation opportunities.
- Volunteerism is declining in many sport and recreation organisations. This will have an impact on the costs of sport as services that were once provided voluntarily, may need to be paid for.
- For many, the leisure experience is one of limited time availability with an expectation of “instant gratification”. This is evidenced by a desire for participants to “turn up and play” where minimal extra commitments are involved. In many cases the participants are willing to pay extra for this service which has created some opportunities for commercial provision
- Community groups and clubs have consistently identified the availability and/ or cost of insurance as having an impact on staging events and club operations in recent years.
- Research¹⁸ has shown that outdoor recreation activities remain popular and there is evidence of an increase in the popularity of outdoor recreation activities such as camping and water based activities. There was strong evidence to suggest an increasing rate of usage of very natural or totally natural recreational settings. The declining availability of these settings and the consequent need to travel large distances to get to them, contribute to the two main constraints on participation in outdoor recreation (i.e. lack of time and general lack of places to go).
- Local and state governments are recognising the value of increasing the physical activity levels of their communities and developing physical activity strategies to serve this purpose.
- There is an increasing awareness of the importance "risk management" and the need for a “whole-of-life” approach to facility development and asset management.
- Venue managers and clubs are reporting an increasing demand for evening competitions either for reasons of convenience or to reduce exposure to the sun.
- Increasing levels of part time and shift work are affecting participation preferences, particularly with older secondary students and tertiary students. Many clubs are reporting that 14+ age group are becoming increasingly difficult to retain with increased competition for their time and decreased ability to commit to formal competitive sport. Young people confirm this in discussions but also indicate they like social sport and are willing participants where convenience allows.

2.5.4. TRENDS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION

Further to discussions in the previous section about general trends influencing sport and recreation participation, Strategic Leisure has, through work with many local governments across Queensland and New South Wales, identified a number of trends in local government approaches to management of sport and recreation in communities. These can be summarised into the following key points:

- **Local government amalgamations** have affected many Councils. Some of the challenges arising from the amalgamations which impact on sport and recreation servicing include:

¹⁷ ABS Aust Social Trends 2008 (41020_2008)

¹⁸ Outdoor Recreation Trends in South East Qld 1997-2007.-Dept Local Government Sport and Recreation Qld. Published 13/3/2008

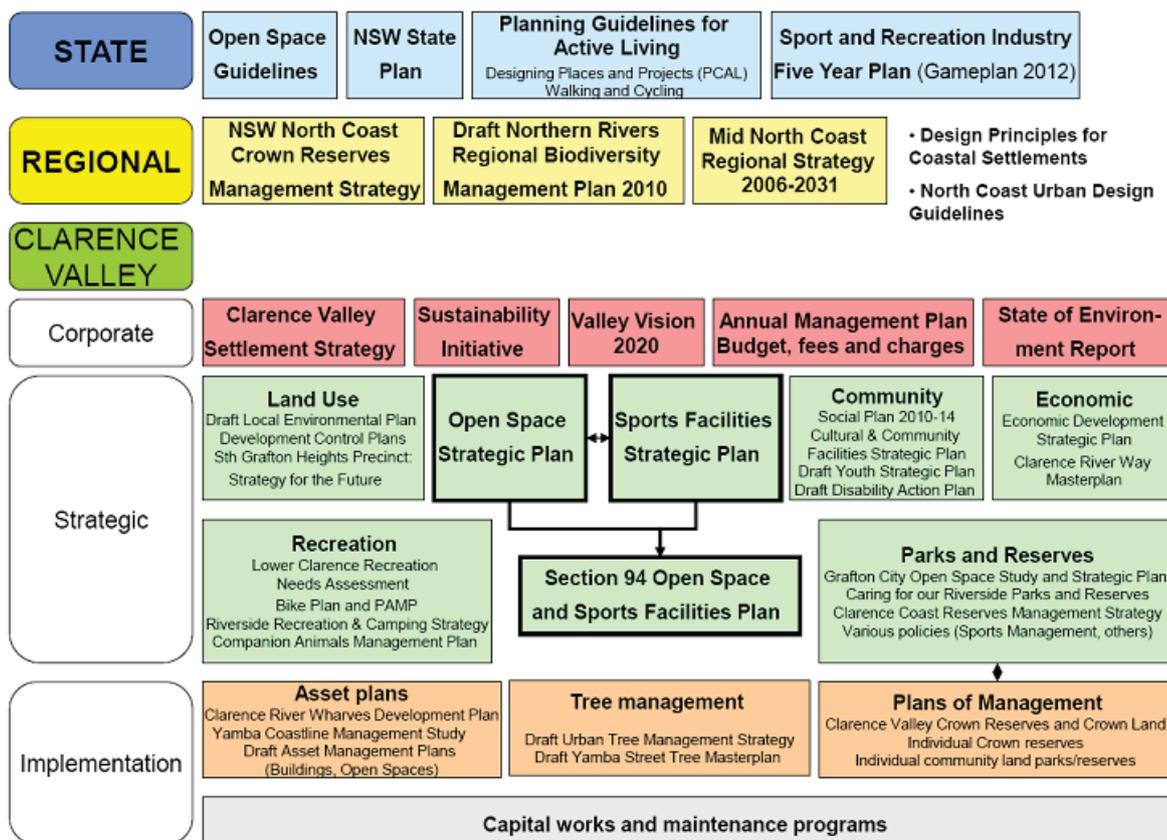
- Council's have needed to review and align strategic directions, policy and operational procedures to ensure equity across new local government areas. For sport and recreation, this particularly includes re-assessing community need and re-prioritising facility and service expenditure, as well as reviewing tenure arrangements.
- Many newly amalgamated Council's appear to have reduced financial capacity as a result of the cost of amalgamation, which in some cases has reduced the ability of some Council's to progress sport and recreation projects, and further develop the staffing resources needed to manage sport and recreation across expanded local government areas.
- Many local governments have reported mounting concern over **ageing sport and recreation infrastructure**. Ageing infrastructure presents problems not only from a maintenance perspective, but also signals substantial replacement costs in the short to medium term.
- In contrast to the above, the recent stimulus funding has invested heavily in school based facilities with sports courts and covered activity space being a major thrust of funding. Distribution of funding was based purely on population and school location with little regard for local government strategic planning of facilities for sport and recreation. The strategic implications have been difficult to ascertain for many councils with construction only now concluding in many schools. At the least the additional infrastructure should have an impact on supply for training space for court sports and some other indoor sports and recreation activities. Cost of space and accessibility for community use is of course an unknown at this stage although funding conditions specified community access.
- Both Federal and State levels of Government are progressively placing greater emphasis on the importance of **planning for active living**, and the key role local governments have in influencing the physical activity habits of residents. It is expected that this impetus will continue to expand and local governments will be urged to adopt a pro-active role in planning communities to enhance active living opportunities.
- Local governments will have a major role in **responding to trends** in participation such as the growing desire for non-structured and informal participation, and a decline in volunteerism, which will affect the long-term viability of many community sporting groups.

2.5.5. FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AND POLICY

The legislative and policy framework surrounding management of open space and sporting parks is complex and impact both on managing resources and planning for new facilities. This framework is explained in Section 2.5 and Appendix A of the Open Space Strategic Plan (2011).

Figure 2 places this study in context in regard to State, regional and local planning.

Figure 2 State, Regional and Local Planning Context (from Clarence Valley Open Space Plan 2011)



2.5.6. INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION PROJECTIONS FOR 2021

Using ERASS data for 2009 it is possible to make a broad projection of demand increase for particular groups of sports due to anticipated population growth. Projections have been developed by:

- Taking a percentage (71.1%) of predicted growth (9,842) to represent the 12-69 y.o. cohort as representative of the majority of sport participants.
- Using the resulting additional population (6998) to predict additional participants based on the 2009 ERASS participation rates for NSW (children under 12 were not included as the only data was national and the participation growth will be mostly a function of population growth).
- Aggregating similar sports to create a more robust projection.

To improve on the usability, grouping participation in to broad demand areas provides a more usable projection. For example, we know that participation amongst field sports fluctuates between different codes according to a number of factors and that there is significant regional variation. However overall demand for fields remains steady and is likely to continue at current rates even if the actual sports played change.

If we aggregate field sport demand we are able to generate a better idea of overall need for space and we can accommodate the likelihood that today's soccer field might need to be tomorrow's touch field.

The projected population growth has been factored by the current percentage of 12-69 year olds to give a broad idea of the likely core participation demand. This figure results in a future additional population of 6998 (additional persons aged 12-69). If we use the 2009 participation data we can project the number of additional users that will need to be accommodated.

This demand projection is designed to provide an indication only, to assist in consideration of the facility demand issues which will affect provision on Clarence Valley Council. The resulting projections should not be taken to be a complete statistical projection based on verified sample data from the Local Government Area. Additional caution is required as sample sizes in NSW are not sufficient (for some sports) to provide participation estimates with sufficient confidence. The ERASS report (for 2009) identifies the following as having relative standard errors of 25%-50%:

- Athletics
- Hockey (outdoor)
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Shooting

Sports with greater than 50% relative standard error are:

- Carpet bowls
- Gymnastics

Table 11 Demand Projection from Population Growth 2009 to 2021 (based on 12-69 year old population using NSW data.)

Sport Grouping	Additional Demand (Participants)	Total Demand (projection only)¹⁹
Field sports (Football, AFL, Rugby Union, Rugby League)	1351	7896
Outdoor Courts Sports (NB and tennis)	700	4091
Indoor Court Sports (basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Futsal and Indoor cricket)	553	3232
Aquatic and river (Surf sports, Paddle Sports, Sailing, Water skiing)	364	2128
Pools (swimming and Aquafitness)	1085	6342
Indoor other (Aerobics, Fitness, weights, yoga, martial arts etc)	2295	13420
Equestrian	70	409
Lawn Bowls	140	818

¹⁹ The total demand is a projection only based on NSW statistics. It should not be taken as reflecting a trend projection based on current participation levels within Clarence Valley Council.

IMPLICATIONS

The projected demand growth over the next 10 years will not generate any significant additional demand as it will be dispersed across catchments. The major issues in response to population growth will be addressing those areas where growth is concentrated and improving the capacity of current facilities.

One exception may be the potential continued increase in demand for indoor facilities to accommodate sport and exercise related recreation/ fitness activities. Provision responses to this demand must consider the investment made in school facilities and the increased capacity at schools due to the federal BER funding.

2.5.7. STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

This section summarises the impacts of a number of strategic issues.

S 94 CONSTRAINTS

- Infrastructure charges are likely to be capped at \$20,000-30,000 per lot meaning that the cost of providing essential community infrastructure such as parks and sporting facilities will be borne more by the Council and funded from consolidated revenue and grants.
- This capping means that a focus on getting value from S 94 contributions should explore how best to use income to improve opportunities and facilities.
- It is likely this constraint will lead to an increase in councils seeking grant funds and establishing partnerships with clubs or private interests to undertake facility improvements or develop new facilities.

CROWN LAND/ RESERVES

- State legislation constrains activities on reserves and proposals for significant change require preparation or revisions to Plans of Management (POMs). The Department of Primary Industries, Catchments and Lands comment that; "All major proposals must consider the public interest and include an appropriate level of assessment and community consultation through the planning and development process".
- State interpretation of activities on reserves can mean that built community sport and recreation facilities leased to private or NGO operators may be considered to be commercial activity. This interpretation could mean higher rents are levied than that applicable to a community sport club. While there should be market adjustment for rental rates, many facilities are most effectively run through leasing to an operator. While this arrangement is commercial in nature it is more of a partnership as council would be unable to operate the facility. The lessee often operates with limited margins and may have some support from Council in terms of operating costs or a management fee. This means it is not a truly commercial endeavour and viability (and delivery of the service to the community) can be impacted by too high a rental rate. The core issue is to facilitate the provision of sport and recreation opportunities to the community at affordable prices. Many Councils rely on operators to lease and run sporting and aquatic centres and would be unable to resource management "in-house". It is important to resolve the issue of "commercial" definitions and unreasonable rental rates with the State so that the ongoing ability of these council- operator partnerships to deliver sport and recreation opportunities to the local community is not diminished.

GROWTH AREAS

- A number of growth areas have been identified (Junction Hill, Clarenza, West Yamba, Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad, Waterview Heights, Iluka-Woombah, Coutts Crossing, and Lawrence). Ensuring provision for these future populations will require the upgrading of some existing facilities but will also require consideration of providing more land for sport.
- To provide diversity of opportunity in growth areas, it will be necessary to look at a “district” approach which sees a number of communities grouped together and serviced by a network of facilities focusing on different sports.
- Council has existing undeveloped sporting land in Townsend. This land is at the centre of a larger district that will see 4182 additional residents (Yamba –MacLaeon- Rural Coast). Given there are capacity constraints in Maclean (Wherrett Park) and in Yamba, developing this site as the “main” site for one or more sports must be considered.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

- The cost of maintaining assets needs to be considered in proposed upgrades and provision of new assets. With numerous small communities dispersed over a large area, it is difficult to manage and maintain facilities efficiently and the relative isolation of some communities means that local provision is critical.
- Ensuring that facilities can be used for a number of sports, and that any development allows for future reconfiguration in response to changed demand to ensure best use of community resources.
- Analysis of asset provision needs to consider the number of major facilities (such as pools) and the benefits of retaining old and increasingly costly facilities against the cost of maintenance. In some cases, single new facility designed with contemporary plant and configured for emerging participation trends will be more sustainable than retention of two older facilities which are not meeting needs effectively.
- It is likely that State Sporting Organisations and State and (possibly) Federal governments will start defining minimum standards for playing surfaces. This means both Council and clubs using Council managed reserves will have a legal responsibility to upgrade and maintain fields and courts to a new standard. The requirements of these standards may exceed the ability of some groups to undertake the upgrades. This potential issue suggests further that multi-user fields and courts of a higher quality will be more sustainable than a provision approach that attempts to give every club their own facility.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY DEMAND

- With the dispersed populations of the Council region it is difficult to provide for community demand without a reliance on transport. While bus networks provide for most areas, they are focused on commuter needs and do not really provide for sporting participation needs and, in particular, junior sport.
- Provision planning should seek to ensure that local demand for training space and physical activity is met with some form of facility within each village or township. A combination of school facilities and Council managed reserves should be sufficient to meet this approach. For competition and senior

levels of sport it is reasonable to allow for car travel as part of the access network and for larger hubs to provide for several communities.

EQUITY IN PROVISION

- Ensuring equity in provision of sporting facilities is difficult in an area which has numerous access barriers (rivers) and multiple population nodes.
- The most effective approach is to ensure equity of opportunity as opposed to trying to provide the same facility for every community. This means that the focus is on ensuring local opportunities for active recreation and participation in sport rather than ensuring that every town has (for example) a rugby league field.
- Different solutions will apply in different communities to meet the need for equity of opportunity and may include direct provision as well as partnerships with other agencies (e.g. schools) to provide opportunities.
- Equity in terms of accessibility of venues is also important in planning for future provision. The history of older facilities means that they may have not been appropriately designed or planned to ensure accessibility for all. Two core strategies are required: the first is to audit existing facilities and develop a prioritised plan for addressing issues identified; the second is to ensure all new facilities or upgrades address access issues. Priority should be placed on access to aquatic centres and indoor centres as these have the potential to have a significant impact on access to sporting opportunities.

2.6. FACILITY HIERARCHY AND SPORTING FACILITIES PROVISION STANDARDS

The following strategic approach has been used to generate the key facility directions for CVC. This approach is based on the consideration of the general Recreation and Open Space Planning Principles discussed in Section 2.3 of the Open Space Strategy.

The hierarchy for provision (see Section 1.1.1) has been defined as:

- Local
- District
- LGA Wide

The standards for provision are defined below. Particular consideration has been given to ensuring that provision is sustainable and that duplication is avoided.

2.6.1. DESIRED STANDARDS OF SERVICE FOR SPORTING FACILITIES PROVISION

PROVISION WITHIN LOCAL TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Sporting facility provision at the local level should ensure that as a minimum, residents have access to:

- 1-2 multi-use outdoor sports courts with lighting, suitable for social play. The preferred model for communities over 500 residents would be for a 2 court facility with 1 court multi-marked.

- A multi-use sports field (for smaller communities this can be a shared school facility) which allows for oval and rectangular format sports. The facility is to be to a standard suitable for training. Toilets and shade shelter should be provided.
- For future residential villages the above should be provided in a single reserve or as a shared facility with a local school.
- Travel times to the above should not exceed 10-15 mins by car, but ideally local facilities should be accessible by bicycle along a safe network within a maximum 5 km radius.

DISTRICT PROVISION

Provision at the district level typically serves a larger planning catchment encompassing several communities. District level provision should accommodate competition needs and provide opportunities for all major sports. Provision at this level should include:

- Rectangular format sports fields capable of accommodating multiple sports with at least one developed for higher level competition (spectator seating, amenities and playing standard lights).
- Oval format sports fields capable of accommodating Cricket, AFL, Athletics and potentially other users. With at least one developed for higher level competition (spectator seating, amenities and playing standard lights).
- Swimming and pool sports facility with a minimum 25 m pool suitable for short course competition.
- Indoor sports complex with a minimum of two indoor courts and program space for other indoor sports such as martial arts, gymnastics and dance.
- Outdoor court complex (ideally co-located with indoor facility) to accommodate netball. A minimum of four hard courts and additional four grass courts is considered ideal but a minimum starting point of two hard courts (either indoor or outdoor) supplemented with grass courts should apply. Facility should include toilets and change and shade amenities and the two hard courts should be lit for game standard.
- Tennis competition hub of minimum 4 courts all lit with an ideal provision of six courts. Serviced by toilets, shade and change facilities.
- If possible, court sports should be co-located to allow for shared use of amenities and parking.
- Arena, Showgrounds or shared use facility to accommodate equestrian activities and smaller events requiring showgrounds type arena space.
- River access, coastal access for aquatic sports consisting of ramp, amenities block and parking as a minimum.
- Travel times to district level provision may vary but a preferred maximum is 20- 30 minutes by car. Some districts may be unable to meet the travel standard for all facilities due to issues associated with the road network and indirect routes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WIDE PROVISION

Local government wide provision should include facilities or sporting precincts which:

- Provide specialist facilities which are difficult to locate (such as shooting and motor sports) and require a larger catchment for viability.
- Offer sports a base for competition and hosting of regional, state or higher level competitive events.

In some cases sports may choose to centralise all junior or senior competition to a single facility which will then create an LGA wide (regional) facility. An Ideal range of provision at this level of the hierarchy is described below. It should be remembered that many of these would also serve local and district catchments:

- Rectangular field complex of minimum two fields with the main field developed to a high standard of spectator and player amenity. Grandstand seating, hospitality, dual change rooms, access control, competition standard lighting (200 lux+) and off street car parking are all required.
- Oval field complex of minimum two fields with the main field developed to a high standard of spectator and player amenity. Grandstand seating, hospitality, dual change rooms, access control, competition standard lighting and off street car parking are all required.
- High level competition venue for Hockey with at least one, preferably two, synthetic pitches.
- High level competition facility for Netball with a minimum of 10 hard courts.
- High level competition facility for Tennis with a minimum of 10-12 hard courts lit to competition standard.
- 50 m swimming complex with grandstand, officials rooms, change and lights.
- Dedicated gymnastics facility with capacity to host competitions.
- Indoor sports courts (minimum 2-3 court) with capacity to host competition events of at least regional level.
- Equestrian Competition Centre catering to a range of disciplines.
- Motor Sports Precinct (could be shared with neighbouring council).
- Gun and rifle sports precinct (could be shared with neighbouring council).
- Athletics competition ground with 400 m track, spectator facilities, change facilities and off street parking.
- River sports precinct suitable for provision of temporary spectator facilities and located on an appropriate "reach" of the river.

2.6.2. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR SPORTS FACILITIES

The following standards for the development of sporting facilities are provided as a general guide. It is recognised that most of the development over the next ten years will be in the form of upgrading existing facilities. The suggested standards will assist with planning for these upgrades however the resident sports may have specific needs or requests which will vary from the standards.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WIDE

Table 12- Development Standards Local Government Wide Sports Facilities

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
Facilities			<i>All facilities should meet federal and state legislative requirements for access.</i>
Spectator Facilities	Provision of shaded spectator facilities to service main (competition) fields and courts	Adjacent to the main field, oval or court, provide a pavilion/ roofed area or earthbank/tiered seating (shaded by trees or structures). Roofed area of 100m ² / field Or 50m ² / court	Sufficient shaded spectator space to accommodate 150 people for each sports field or 60 people for each sports court
Amenities Block, Club Facilities and Meeting Space	Provision of change and toilet facilities as well as meeting, storage and event space for resident clubs or groups to use.	Provide a shared public amenities building servicing multiple fields and courts incorporating 5 x cubicles large enough for unisex and disabled, each with toilet and washbasin. If practical, provide a services building for clubs to share including: two change rooms (minimum 30 players), first aid room, referee room, meeting room, canteen and store room.	All buildings must comply with relevant codes and guidelines. Club services building would not be provided for locations servicing a single sport (in that case it is the sport's responsibility). All buildings must be above ARI 100 ²⁰ rainfall peaks.
Sports Fields	Provision of formal competition fields with a playing surface standard specified by the "user" sports State or National bodies. Where fields are shared then the higher of the relevant standards should be applied.	Rectangular fields should have a minimum space of 140m x 70m and are ideally located in pairs so that they are capable of locating a cricket wicket between them and ovals as an overlay for contra season use. Cricket ovals should have 68.6m radius centre of pitch If shared for AFL the overall area is 173m x 143m. 1 main field or oval is to be lit to 200 lux and other fields/ ovals should be lit to 100 lux for training. Maximum slope of 1: 100. Drainage and fill should ensure that playing surfaces are generally above ARI 20.	All fields should be north south orientation. All designs should allow for shared use across seasons. Field development would not include in ground irrigation or subsoil drainage infrastructure unless the location requires this to be viable. Lighting standards may be adjusted if specific sport requirements or standards are identified.
Sports Courts	Provision of a sufficient sports courts to host a regional championship event. Court surface to be concrete with flexipave/ synpave (or similar) as a minimum.	Courts should be provided with associated infrastructure including: perimeter or inter court fencing, nets or goal posts, line marking, lighting to 200 lux. (350 for tennis). Courts should be located so that	All courts should be north south orientation

²⁰ Average recurrence interval

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
	The surface standard should comply with any recommendations from State or National sports bodies.	surface drainage is rapid and courts generally remain above ARI 50.	
Indoor Sports	Provision of indoor sports venues suitable for a regional or higher competitive event.	3 or more indoor sports courts of minimum dimension of 22 m x 36 m with a minimum of 4 m between courts. Dedicated Gymnastics space with minimum length to accommodate run up for the vault. Martial arts or boxing space providing for two competition mats/ arenas.	All indoor facilities to include change rooms, toilets, kiosk, office and first aid. All buildings above ARI 100
Pools/ Aquatics	50 m competition venue capable of hosting regional level events	Aquatic complex with 50 m pool which meets FINA standard for this level of competition. Program/ warm up pool. Shaded spectator facilities to accommodate at least 500 people. Lighting of competition water to 250 lux	Must comply with state legislation and Swimming Australia requirements for regional facilities
Drinking Water	Drinking water is provided across the site so that all competitors or other users can see at least one drinking fountain.	3 x Drinking fountains (Disabled Compliant)	Drinking water should be provided on club or amenities buildings All drinking fountains to be of an accessible design.
Car Parking and Access Works			
Carparking	Sufficient off street parking for anticipated peak loads	Parking areas should incorporate disabled car spaces and bus parking bays/ drop off bays. A minimum of 50% of the carparking required for peak load to be sealed. Parking to be above ARI 10 and provided "off-street"	Location of parking areas should be central to facilities and generally located to minimise the amount of internal road network required.
Site Access	Off-street sealed access and restriction of vehicle access except by the road entry.	Sealed internal road network providing access to clubhouse and parking areas. Installation of 'access control' barrier to all accessible park boundaries/ frontages (i.e. bollards @ 1.5m centres). Chain wire fencing of main competition fields to 2 m plus vehicle and pedestrian gates to allow for control of spectator access during games.	See above comment on internal road network. Boundary treatments should not prevent pedestrian and cyclist access.

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
Signage		Park entry information signage at main entries to include site layout plan.	
Lighting and Power		Power Box (external) – 3 Phase power. Safety/ security lighting to carparks, paths and buildings.	

DISTRICT LEVEL FACILITIES

Table 13 Development Standards for District Facilities

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
Facilities			<i>All facilities should meet federal and state legislative requirements for access.</i>
Spectator Facilities	Provision of shaded spectator facilities to service main (competition) fields and courts	Adjacent to the main field, oval or court, provide a pavilion/ roofed area or earthbank/tiered seating (shaded by trees or structures). Roofed area of 100m ² / field Or 50m ² / court	Sufficient shaded spectator space to accommodate 150 people for each sports field or 60 people for each sports court
Amenities Block, Club Storage	Provision of change and toilet facilities as well as meeting and storage space for resident clubs or groups to use.	Provide a shared public amenities building for the site with a minimum of 2 male and 2 female (accessible) cubicles. 2 Change rooms provided of minimum size to accommodate 15 players each. Store room/ storage area with separate lockable cages/ cupboards for each tenant sport. Roofed meeting area with Kiosk/ kitchen able to accommodate a minimum of 100 people.	All buildings must comply with relevant codes and guidelines. All buildings must be above ARI 100 ²¹ rainfall peaks.
Sports Fields	Provision of at least 1 competition standard field with additional training or junior fields. Playing surface standard specified by the “user” sports State or National bodies. Where fields are shared then the higher of the relevant standards	Rectangular fields should have a minimum space of 140m x 70m and are ideally located in pairs so that they are capable of locating a cricket wicket between them and ovals as an overlay for contra season use. Maximum slope of 1: 100 is preferred. Cricket ovals should have 68.6m	All fields should be North South orientation. All designs should allow for shared use across seasons. Field development would not include in ground irrigation or subsoil drainage infrastructure unless the location requires this to be viable.

²¹ Average recurrence interval

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
	should be applied.	radius centre of pitch If shared for AFL the overall area is 173m x 143m. The main competition field or oval is to be lit to 200 lux and at least 1 other field should be lit to 100 lux for training. Drainage and fill should ensure that playing surfaces are generally above ARI 10.	Lighting standards may be adjusted if specific sport requirements or standards are identified.
Sports Courts	Provision of sufficient sports courts to accommodate local and social competition and regular training. Court surface to be concrete with flexipave/ synpave (or similar) as a minimum. The surface standard should comply with any recommendations from State or National sports bodies.	Courts should be provided with associated infrastructure including: perimeter or inter court fencing, nets or goal posts, line marking, a minimum of 2 courts lit to 200 lux. (4 courts at 350 for tennis). If possible multiuse design should allow for 4 lit courts to accommodate netball/ basketball and tennis. Courts should be located so that surface drainage is rapid and courts generally remain above ARI 50.	All courts should be north south orientation
Indoor Sports	Provision of indoor sports venues suitable for local competition and social sport	1-2 indoor sports courts of minimum dimension of 22 m x 36 m with a minimum of 4 m between courts. Flexible program space able to accommodate a range of indoor sports/ fitness pursuits such as dance/ martial arts or aerobics	All indoor facilities to include change rooms, toilets, kiosk, office and first aid. All buildings above ARI 100
Pools/ Aquatics	25 or 50 m pool capable of hosting local swim club activities and providing a range of swim and fitness programs for the community.	Pool should meet Swimming Australia standards for club level competition. Shaded spectator facilities to accommodate at least 250 people. Lighting of competition water to 250 lux	Must comply with state legislation and Swimming Australia requirements for club facilities
Drinking Water	Drinking water is provided across the site so that all competitors or other users can see at least one drinking fountain.	2x Drinking fountains (Disabled Compliant)	Drinking water should be provided on club or amenities buildings All drinking fountains to be of an accessible design.
Car Parking and Access Works			
Carparking	Sufficient off street and on street parking for anticipated peak loads	Parking areas should incorporate disabled car spaces and bus parking bays/ drop off bays. A minimum of 50% of the carparking required for peak load	Location of parking areas should be central to facilities and generally located to minimise the amount of internal road network required.

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
		to be sealed. Minimum of 50% of parking to be above ARI 10	
Site Access	Off-street sealed access and restriction of vehicle access except by the road entry.	Sealed internal road network providing access to clubhouse and parking areas. Installation of 'access control' barrier to all accessible park boundaries/ frontages (i.e. bollards @ 1.5m centres).	See above comment on internal road network. Boundary treatments should not prevent pedestrian and cyclist access.
Signage		Park entry information signage at main entries to include site layout plan .	
Lighting and Power		Power Box (external) – 3 Phase power. Safety/ security lighting to carparks, paths and buildings	

LOCAL LEVEL/ VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP FACILITIES

Table 14 Development Standards for Local Facilities

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
Facilities (preferred solution is a single multi-user facility)			<i>All facilities should meet federal and state legislative requirements for access.</i>
Spectator Facilities	Provision of shaded areas around fields or courts	Shade trees planted around the perimeter of playing fields or courts. If sufficient natural shade is not available then "carport" style shade shelters provided at a rate of one 6x3 shelter per field or court.	Natural shade solutions are preferred to minimise maintenance loads for the facility
Toilets and club facilities	Provision of toilets as well as storage space for resident clubs or groups to use.	Provide a public toilet for the site with a minimum of 2 male and 2 female (accessible) cubicles. Store room/ storage area with separate lockable cages/ cupboards for each tenant sport..	All buildings must comply with relevant codes and guidelines. All buildings must be above ARI 100 ²² rainfall peaks.
Sports Fields	Provision of a multi use sporting field able to accommodate oval or rectangular use.	Main space should be 120 m x 100 m. Playing surface to be evenly grassed and levelled with "rounding " to ensure drainage to	All fields should be North South orientation. All designs should allow for shared use across seasons.

²² Average recurrence interval

Element	Performance Outcome	Standard Solutions	Cost Parameters/ design issues
		<p>perimeter or slope of max 1: 50 to one end.</p> <p>Drainage and fill should ensure that playing surfaces are generally above ARI 10.</p> <p>If sufficient multi-use is present (demand for more than 3 nights per week) then lighting to 100-200 lux is preferred.</p>	
Sports Courts	Provision of 1-2 multiuse courts	<p>Courts should be provided with associated infrastructure including: perimeter or inter court fencing, nets or goal posts, line marking, a minimum of 2 courts is recommended.</p> <p>Courts should be located so that surface drainage is rapid and courts generally remain above ARI 20.</p> <p>If more than 2 sports likely to use the courts then lighting 100-200 lux is recommended.</p>	All courts should be north south orientation
Drinking Water	Drinking water is provided	1x Drinking fountain (Disabled Compliant)	All drinking fountains to be of an accessible design.
Car Parking and Access Works			
Carparking	On street parking	On street parking should provide dedicated accessible spaces.	
Site Access	Access from perimeter.	Installation of 'access control' barrier to all accessible park boundaries/ frontages (i.e. bollards @ 1.5m centres). Gate provided for service or event entry	Boundary treatments should not prevent pedestrian and cyclist access.
Signage		Park entry information signage	
Lighting and Power		<p>Power Box (external) – 3 Phase power.</p> <p>Safety/ security lighting to toilets</p>	

2.7. STRATEGIC AND PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

2.7.1. SPORTS FIELD CAPACITY IMPROVEMENT

To accommodate population growth and to plan efficiently for the future provision of sporting facilities, it is proposed to focus on consolidation of existing precincts and increasing the capacity of these precincts by upgrading the playing surface, amenities and lights.

Over the next 10 years Council should seek to establish more efficient configuration of shared and multi-use fields through master planning where needed and also ensuring that all investment benefits, capacity and shared use capability of any site.

A program to support clubs and user groups in upgrading lighting of fields and courts is recommended. This should seek to assist with technical advice and capital investment to provide for night use of fields at all district level facilities. Provision of lights also responds to emerging trends of increased participation in social sport which is predominantly played at night.

Playing surface upgrades are also critical to ensure that fields are able to support increased use loads. Importantly though, it is likely that state governments and state sporting organisations will be considering mandatory playing surface standards which will require a minimum to be met by all training and competition facilities. Council will need to prioritise expenditure and assistance in this area with the focus being on multi-use and district or higher level facilities.

2.7.2. AQUATIC FACILITIES

There are four swimming facilities which provide 25 m or 50 m pools in the Council area. The other two facilities are small program pools providing some swimming and learn to swim capacity in local communities. Apart from Yamba, the other pools are old and may be reaching one or more structural crises. In addition, the contemporary provision of swimming facilities has changed dramatically and modern centres combine traditional lap swimming with leisure water, program space and an increasing focus on fitness related activities.

An Aquatic Facilities Study is recommended as a priority to investigate pool condition and the best way to provide facilities in the future that offers Council a more financially sustainable outcome and the community a higher level of service in modern facility provision. A condition audit of the current pools would be critical as part of this study. As part of the condition audit an access audit of the pool facilities is required to ensure that facilities meet standards for accessible facilities.

2.7.3. SPORT PRECINCT MASTER PLANS

There are a number of key precincts which will be integral to future provision and meeting current demand. However, there is a history of isolated decision making and in several cases the existing infrastructure is ageing or the demand for field space has shifted from original configurations.

Sport has cyclical changes and the community demographic changes as well so it is reasonable that sports precincts are periodically replanned to ensure they are configured for best use by the community and that opportunities for more efficient design are pursued according to the needs of all users.

Master planning can also provide the opportunity for longer term strategies to be developed which consider how existing land or facilities may be reconfigured as use declines in importance or new demands emerge.

The priority locations identified for master planning are:

- Hawthorne Park - Hay St Precinct
- Wherrett Park – consider Chris O’Connell Courts, adjacent cricket and adjoining lands (consideration of future use of land in Townsend required as part of this)
- JJ Lawrence - McKittrick Park
- Ngayundi –Yamba Sports complex (currently underway)
- Iluka Sports precinct (currently underway)

Medium term locations are

- Barnier Park
- Future local sports facility in Townsend (On Council owned, but as yet undeveloped, land)

Longer Term locations are:

- Ellem Oval- Fisher Park – Showgrounds (integrated precinct plan)

2.7.4. RECTANGULAR SPORTS STADIUM

Several mentions of the need for a higher level rectangular stadium occurred throughout the project. Some submissions were of the view that a large 20,000 seat stadium is warranted and would “put the town on the map”. However, stadiums of this size are expensive to build and even more expensive to operate. A core commitment by state level field sports (preferably a “home” team or regular visit) to use the facility regularly and pay a realistic use fee would be needed to warrant even preliminary consideration. Clarence Valley will always compete against Coffs Harbour and it is unlikely the greater region will support a second major facility of this nature.

Any proposal to progress this concept would need a detailed feasibility assessment.

It would be more sustainable and effective to consider a lower level development which can accommodate 1000+ seats and has space for “hill” seating or temporary seating to accommodate a larger crowd for major competitive events. Further, while the best locations need to be subject to a specific study, it is likely to be more effective to build on an existing facility with some established use and existing event capacity. Other considerations are:

- Potential to develop and improve an existing arena at a showground (such as Maclean) that already now has a 1,000 seat capacity with about half undercover
- Need for the facility to be supported with parking infrastructure
- Potential to differentiate with an “oval” sports facility developed in one community and a “rectangular” sports facility in another.
- More detailed information is required on the level of event likely and the actual demand for higher level competition venues.

It is recommended that a feasibility/ planning study be undertaken to determine what level of demand exists, the potential to attract larger events and then to match facility options with existing facilities which can be upgraded. Council may wish to broaden the scope of this study to consider both oval and rectangular format field sports.

2.7.5. RIVER SPORT DEVELOPMENT

As identified in previous studies like the Clarence River Way, and through consultation, one of the opportunities Clarence Valley Council has to differentiate itself from surrounding areas is to pursue development of river/ aquatic sports/ paddle sports. Pursuit of this goal would create the opportunity for unique events that are not provided for elsewhere. Development of launching and spectator facilities as well as strategies for managing on-water uses and potential conflicts would be the main need.

In the short term it is recommended that Council and the river based sports consider the preparation of a River Sports and Major Events Strategy. This should seek to:

- Identify major event precincts on the river to be developed for specific sports and events.
- Determine what existing events could be located in the area and what potential new events can be established.
- Develop linkages to tourism and economic development strategies
- Build on current interest from Queensland based paddle and river sports
- Develop a 5 year plan for the development of critical access facilities and support infrastructure to allow 1-2 signature events to be established in the region and provide a base for further growth.

2.7.6. FUTURE LAND NEEDS

While the overall population growth in the next 10 years is estimated at 9,842 people, it is considered that the existing land supply will be generally sufficient to accommodate the increased demand. This is on the basis that some significant master planning is done to maximise efficiency of use in major precincts and that upgrading the capacity of the existing facilities (playing surface, lighting and amenities) is undertaken.

However, some locations that will be experiencing growth should have a longer term consideration of additional local field provision if population growth is continuing beyond the 10 year horizon (Glenreagh, Ashby, Waterview Heights). Development of the Council owned land at Townsend as a field sports (and possibly court sports) facility is also recommended in the medium- long term as it will help accommodate growth in that district. Planning for this site should seek to complement existing facilities to allow some differentiation of sports between venues.

Longer term growth has not been considered in this study but it is likely that as the area surrounding Grafton develops further there will be an undersupply of land due to the constraints on expansion of many of the current sporting precincts. Council may wish to consider preparing a longer view plan in five years time which looks at changes in growth and participation trends and identifies some key parcels for establishment of future sporting precinct. The most effective approach would be for a single large area of 15 or more hectares which can be developed over time.

3. SPORTS FACILITY RECOMMENDED DIRECTIONS

The following Table summarises the recommended actions and directions for the main facilities.

Table 15 Sports Facility Actions

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
GRAFTON				
North Park	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Could be considered in association with Frank McGuren field as part of a future RL precinct ▪ Consider preparation of a plan for development as LGA level "home" for RL. ▪ Shade and water to be provided. ▪ Playing surface upgrade required to level and drain field. ▪ More substantial upgrade if any proposal to use for competition. ▪ Basic perimeter fencing to restrict vehicles. 	Consider precinct approach to planning for North Park, Frank McGuren Field and Grafton Indoor Sports Centre. Precinct to develop with shared approach to parking, spectator facilities and pedestrian links between elements.	Being a former landfill site may require ongoing works to level and grade fields.
Frank McGurren Field	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempt to facilitate a decision from Grafton Rugby League Clubs on choice of location for development of a rugby league hub. ▪ Playing surface will require upgrade with recycled effluent irrigation becoming available. ▪ Improve spectator and operational facilities as grant or other external funding becomes available. 	Determination required on what level of future investment is worthwhile. If the local clubs/ league cannot agree then plan for further upgrading of JJ Lawrence and McKittrick as the location for growth of rugby league/oztag/touch and soccer.	Some issues with this location and being land locked. Rugby league participation growth is limited. Longer term planning requires a decision on further development in this location (integration with North Park and development of an overall precinct plan) or shifting the focus to McKittrick Park and developing additional rectangular fields there.
Grafton Sports Centre	LGA Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to manage as Main Indoor Centre for greater Grafton 	Demand for indoor sports courts likely to increase with population growth.	Could consider a strategy to integrate indoor centre with squash and fitness

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		catchment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No issues identified 	Space for additional courts is limited. Impact of BER funded school facilities likely to reduce demand for training space and some indoor court social demand.	centre and operate as a single commercial enterprise. This would require some investigation.
Grafton Aquatic Centre	LGA Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Should be the main competition venue for the region. ▪ Develop spectator facilities and capacity as competition event pool. ▪ More detailed development plan to be prepared as part of an Aquatic Facilities Strategy to ensure pool structure and related infrastructure is adequate in the medium term. 	Plan for longer term redevelopment and upgrading to provide main competition and swim fitness venue- Subject to Aquatic Facilities Study.	Clarence Valley Council has reasonable provision of swimming facilities but the older facilities will increase in maintenance and repair costs. While provision for most areas is considered to be adequate there may be an argument to rationalise pools within Grafton. A detailed Aquatic Facilities Strategy is recommended which considers facility conditions, projected maintenance/ repair costs and contemporary approaches to aquatic provision. The Grafton / Greater Grafton catchment could probably be serviced more sustainably by a single integrated facility providing leisure, sport and fitness water. Current growth projections and the spread of facilities suggest there is no need for additional pools to be planned.
Westward Park	LGA Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to develop as main competition venue for netball. ▪ Convert some grass courts to hard courts to have a minimum of 10 hard courts with competition standard lights. ▪ Develop "show" court spectator facilities with shade. 	Investigations for the Pool as part of the Aquatic Facilities Strategy could consider future development of an indoor sports and fitness component which could provide an indoor show court for netball but be managed as multi-use by the pool management and contribute to overall viability for	Westward Park and the Aquatic Centre are part of a single precinct which would benefit from integrated planning for shared infrastructure needs such as parking.

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop formal approach to parking with consideration of off-street parking. ▪ Investigate development of shared parking space to serve the Pool and the netball courts for larger events and peak competition days. 	the pool.	
Ellem Oval (Upper Fisher Park) Lower Fisher Park Grafton Tennis Centre	LGA Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Principal and premier venues for Hockey, Cricket, AFL and Tennis ▪ Current upgrade plan being implemented. ▪ Plan for additional improvements to spectator facilities for Ellem Oval as Cricket and AFL competition venue. ▪ Overall precinct plan (including showgrounds) needed as a medium priority to consider access, parking and other event capacity issues. ▪ Short term strategy should be developed to accommodate major event parking. 	Continued long term planning for this precinct as the principal venue for these sports.. Plan for gradual expansion with future re-planning of the Showgrounds undertaken to provide for additional sport capacity and event use.	Need integrated plan for whole of precinct.- Discussion with Showgrounds Trust/LPMA required.
Grafton Showgrounds	LGA Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inappropriate location for motor sports. A strategy for relocating motor sport uses is needed within the next few years. ▪ Integrated Master Plan should be developed for Showgrounds-Fisher Park. ▪ Consideration of main arena and configuration for multiple uses ▪ Diversification of recreation activities could increase funding 	Motor sport should be relocated to a site where it can operate and grow without residential growth creating conflict issues. The ideal location would be large enough to accommodate a range of motor sports including motocross and other motorcycle sports.	The Showgrounds is already well developed for events and the main arena could be used as an AFL or Cricket field (with some minor reshaping). Although the Showgrounds are managed by a Trust there is potential to consider a longer term view for a cooperative approach to planning and development of the overall precinct.

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
GRAFTON SOUTH				
JJ Lawrence Fields McKittrick Park	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to develop parks and field as a development base for cricket in the precinct catering for training and some lower level/ junior competition ▪ Improvements to McKittrick Park spectator facilities to allow for use as competition venue. ▪ Consideration of development as a rugby league hub- this would mean development of at least 1 more senior field with lights. Could be used with other sports like Oztag , Touch and Football (soccer) as it is near Rushforth Park ▪ Overall master plan needed for precinct to centralise parking and access issues and develop single shared amenities hub. The master plan should also address shared use enhancements such as relocating the wickets in JJ Lawrence to maximise potential for shared use with other field sports. ▪ Replace old basketball courts with a single multi marked court for local recreation use (subject to a master plan prepared in consultation with the community). ▪ In short term provide training lighting close to McKittrick Oval to relieve training and competition pressure on Oval. 	<p>May be a suitable location to share with Softball if they establish a competition in Grafton.</p> <p>Planning for lighting of JJ Lawrence to at least training standard (100 lux+) would increase capacity of the site.</p> <p>Discussion with Rugby League Clubs in Grafton should determine if this is the preferred location for developing an RL and related sports hub (as opposed to Frank McGuren Park).</p>	<p>Overall focus should be for development as a major field sports precinct. This major user doesn't prevent other field sport uses however but should guide the placement of any infrastructure.</p>

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bollard treatment recommended to restrict vehicles from playing areas and to define active sporting and recreational uses. 		
Rushforth Park	District/ LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop as competition venue for football (soccer). Install signage and way finding signs to and within the site. ▪ Improve spectator shade and seating for “main” field. ▪ Install lighting for car parking and club area (security ▪ Short to medium term need to upgrade player and spectator amenities with additional toilets and change facilities needed. Any player facilities upgrade should include showers. ▪ Short term need to review canteen facilities and upgrade. ▪ Consider lighting another 2 fields to accommodate increased training demand from population growth and to allow for more night use and possible shared use with touch or other social sports. 	<p>Proximity to aerodrome may be a future issue if air traffic increases and the safety envelope required under aviation regulations is changed.</p> <p>Investment inbuilt facilities should consider relocatable designs in case of the need to reconfigure or relocate.</p>	<p>Main focus is as a high volume competition venue accommodating junior sport.</p> <p>More developed “main field” should not aim for higher than district level.</p> <p>Feasibility Investigation for a more developed “rectangular “ stadium should identify preferred location for a facility catering to high level RL/RU and Football games.</p>
Grafton Indoor Pool	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future directions to be determined in Aquatic Facilities Strategy. ▪ Fire damaged elements to be repaired and maintenance to continue. ▪ No investment in expansion or upgrading until Aquatic Facilities 		<p>There may be potential to expand this facility as a gymnastics hub for the region if the Aquatic Facilities Strategy recommends a reduction in pool provision.</p> <p>The hydrotherapy pool will remain important to the community and should</p>

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		Review completed.		not be lost with any reconfiguration. However it could be provided as part of an expanded aquatic precinct at the Grafton Aquatic centre.
Clarence Valley BMX Club	LGA Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to develop as main BMX competition venue in region. ▪ Support lighting of track to enhance use and participation 	If venue was ever likely to host a major event then consideration of parking, lighting, amenities and spectator facilities would be needed.	
Hawthorne Rodeo Park Jabour Pk (Vere St) Hay St	LGA Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A precinct master plan should be prepared for the whole reserve which identifies future development priorities and shared parking and camping zones as well as minimising investment in built amenities. Possible expansion of field sport uses also needs consideration ▪ Support the equestrian groups in their endeavours to prepare a feasibility study for the indoor / covered horse sports arena. ▪ In the short term upgrading electrical supply to the precinct will allow for better event management. Other than that no further major facility investment should be undertaken until a new master plan is developed. ▪ Some minor improvements to complete the dressage arena, provide some more outside stabling, and improve outside lighting, remove unsafe structures should be undertaken ▪ Support improved lighting at Jabour 	<p>Major precinct requiring a long term master plan for the overall reserves as well as a feasibility for the proposed indoor/ covered equestrian event arena.</p> <p>With urban growth and other land pressures this site will become more prominent within the LGA and the wider region as an event venue and capacity to accommodate visiting participants (e.g. camping and stabling/ yarding) will be critical.</p>	<p>Hawthorne Park should be planned and developed over time as a major equestrian competition and training venue.</p> <p>The size of the reserve and its location mean that it should be able to accommodate a number of related sports as well as providing some capacity for field sports developed around Jabour Park and Hay St. Need to consider possible future expansion of Rugby Union.</p> <p>This may also be a good location to consider future development of softball and baseball fields as shared use.</p>

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		Park in short term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The existing draft POM will likely need some review following the master plan and feasibility study. 		
Hay St Rugby Union Fields	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to develop as principal venue for Rugby Union. ▪ Master Plan for overall precinct recommended. ▪ Upgrade playing surface. ▪ Upgrade spectator facilities and site access and parking 	Possible growth in Rugby Union or other “rectangular” format sports should be considered in overall planning. Population growth in greater Grafton area will increase demand for sports fields. Could be considered as a potential location for higher level competition stadium.	Master plan for Whole reserve (including equestrian uses) recommended
GRAFTON SURROUNDS				
Barnier Park Recreation Area	Local/District/ LGA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to develop as main venue for Athletics. ▪ Masterplan should be considered to allow for further development of athletics at this location and continued provision of local/ district field sport provision and tennis/ outdoor court sports. ▪ Main focus should be to improve athletics track with expansion to proper 400m track and improvement of the grass running surface (plan currently being developed for track expansion to regional capacity) ▪ Master plan should identify best location for a shared toilets and 		Junction Hill will be a growth area and will also service surrounding areas. Planning of this reserve to maximise benefit and invest in upgrades that improve capacity and multi-use is the priority A criterium track (830 m) has recently been completed just north of Barnier Park and this should be considered as part of future master planning (shared amenities and parking for events)

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		<p>change hub (either as upgrade to existing or new to replace old facilities).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lighting of track and central field to allow for night training should also be considered in the medium term 		
Trenayr Park	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review layout and potential to park as area grows. 	Could be used and developed as a multi-use area with dog sports.	
McIntosh Oval	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain to the current standard. 		
Wajard Park	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formalise parking and access to park. ▪ Playing surface upgrade to be provided in short term. ▪ Short to medium term consider some lighting to training standard. 	With population growth in the area there may be a need for additional capacity at the fields and longer term planning to have 1-2 fields lit for basic competition standard should be considered.	
Small Park	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain to the current standard ▪ Upgrade canteen and shedding. 	Equestrian event uses such as campdraft should be encouraged to relocate to the Hawthorne Park complex.	
Victoria Park	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain to the current standard ▪ Provide improved shelter for sporting users with renovation of the existing shed. 	Provision of a shed for the rectangular field area	
Caramana Park	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will need planning for increased capacity to accommodate projected growth in Waterview Heights and surrounds. ▪ Develop a multi-use playing field as demand emerges. 		An additional 2337 residents are projected for this area in the next 10 years. Improving local capacity of sporting facilities will be critical.

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
ILUKA- WOOMBAH				
Iluka Oval and tennis courts	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Main sports field for district. ▪ Upgrading dressing room and formalising access and parking for site. ▪ Iluka Oval development should consider a focus more on football codes as cricket field provision is currently supported in Harwood. ▪ A Master Plan layout review has recently been completed 	Field planning and any development should always ensure that both oval and rectangular spots are catered for and that future use for cricket is not precluded by any short term development decisions.	<p>As a precinct this area should be master planned to allow for a shared parking hub and shared facilities only to be developed. Tennis and Field sports should share change and toilet facilities.</p> <p>Woombah residents will have access to Harwood and Iluka.</p> <p>Cricket fields at Harwood are on land owned privately (Mill land) and longevity of tenure is unknown so Iluka Oval should continue to allow for future cricket use if needed- this means careful consideration of the placement of any infrastructure such as light poles so as not to impede "oval" sport uses.</p>
Charlie Ryan Park - Iluka Rowing Shed	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extend the rowing shed to increase storage capacity and ability of club to host events 	Consideration of all investment of riverside facilities should be in context of developing capacity to become a key destination for river sport/ paddle sport events.	A part of the overall strategy to enhance capacity to develop river based sporting events (2.7.5)
YAMBA- ANGOURIE- WOOLAWEYAH				
Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex Raymond Laurie Leisure Centre	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need for precinct master plan for whole area to resolve parking hubs, shared facilities and future expansion of some sports. (Master plan to be completed in 2011) ▪ Convert 4 grass netball courts to hard courts and provide spectator shade as a priority. Ensure indoor 	If stadium development proceeds here then additional parking and other amenities will need to be provided.	Development of a higher level sports stadium to accommodate 1000 + spectators is reasonable in the overall catchment of Yamba- Maclean. Two main options would be to expand capacity at Maclean Showgrounds or expansion of the facility at Yamba. Both are on Crown land however and consideration needs to be given to the

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		<p>facility programming allows for netball to operate indoor and outdoor courts during peak competition loads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium term planning should be for 8 outdoor hard courts to service netball. ▪ Review feasibility of plans for field sport stadium development as part of master plan process. ▪ Priority actions include improving toilets and change facilities. A central and shared facility to service all the fields on the southern side of the access road is recommended. At a minimum, additional female toilets should be provided. ▪ Playing surface upgrade to improve drainage and resilience is a high priority as fields used by several sports. ▪ Develop as a basic competition facility for District Cricket and Lower Clarence AFL ▪ In the medium term lighting upgrades and establishment of at least 2 fields suitable for night competition is recommended. ▪ Update the POM following the completion of the Master Plan. 		<p>community benefits of any redevelopment.</p>
<p>Yamba Community Heated Pool Tennis Courts</p>	<p>District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No major actions ▪ Preparation of Aquatic Facilities Strategy recommended. 		

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
Yamba Oval	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Need to upgrade player amenities (change rooms and toilets) ▪ Improve lighting but ensure infrastructure doesn't impact on potential future use for "oval" sports. ▪ Improve playing surface and field drainage. 		Although there are parking issues this site could be considered for development of a higher level competition venue (i.e. the stadium) as it has some strong positives in terms of access and location
River Street Tennis Courts	local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of tennis court provision recommended for Yamba with a potential rationalising of courts allowing for continued investment in a single modern complex to accommodate current and future growth. 	While a rationalisation of courts to accommodate competitive tennis is recommended, the existing locations at River St and Clarence St may serve recreational fitness or active recreation needs by being converted to a single multi-use court or other active space.	There is a need to rationalise tennis courts in Yamba with three locations being over provision. A phased merging of tennis provision focused on the facility at Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex is recommended.
Clarence St Tennis Courts	local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ See above- review recommended. 	See above	See above
Honeymoon Sports Complex	local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium term need for court to be upgraded with possible conversion to multi-marked court. ▪ Playing surface should be softened and improved with aeration and a regrade. This should be undertaken only in response to any community demand for training / sport use of the field. 		
MACLEAN- TOWNSEND- GULMARRAD				
Maclean Centenary Pool Complex	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aquatic Facilities Strategy Recommended 	Pool is reaching 50 years old and may have future issues. Preparation of an Aquatic Facilities Strategy will determine the best long	Possible catchment overlap with Yamba but Maclean services numerous smaller communities surrounding.

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
			term plan for this facility.	
Ryan Park Tennis Complex	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No actions 		
Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Chris O'Connell Netball Courts (Wherrett Park Sports Complex) Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master planning needed for whole precinct resolve best options to accommodate growth in demand for several sports. Netball requires at least 2 more hard courts Overall plan for parking and shared access and parking hubs needed. Field layout review and better surface and subsoils drainage is a high priority. Plan for development of toilets and change facilities and increased shade cover to service Hospital fields and Soccer fields. 	Consideration of re-locating one of the tenant sports at the future facility in Townsend. The Townsend facility could become the "home" competition facility for one of these sports. Current demand and predicted growth is sufficient enough for this to be a medium priority but an early decision would be prudent to minimise over-investment for that sport in Wherrett Park precinct.	This is the major facility servicing the Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad district and future growth and demand will require better utilisation of the space. A master plan is needed to identify staged improvements and prevent any further isolated decisions which reduce shared use capacity.
Maclean Showgrounds	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of this facility as higher level field sport competition venue (1000 seats+) If more use of oval is planned for competition then lighting upgrade would be required. 	Longer term consideration may see this facility as the preferred location for higher level oval sport competition and Yamba developed for rectangular sports.	This venue has considerable infrastructure in place to support large events and should be considered for further development as a district or LGA level event venue. However parking remains an issue and some planning to resolve parking and access is required if this use proceeds.
Illarwill Sports Ground	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain as local facility. 		
Vacant sports land Townsend	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop as local sport provision for Townsend / Gulmarrad. Medium term development with multiuse sports court and sport fields. 	Potential for this to be developed as a new "home" competition facility for one of the sports in Maclean.	Population growth projected for Gulmarrad (1359) indicates that local sports provision is warranted. Council has land available at Townsend for this

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		Could consider planning as an "integrated" community park with recreational space and meeting facilities.		purpose which is around 4 km away.
RURAL COAST, RURAL SOUTH-WEST AND RURAL NORTH-WEST				
Lawrence Cricket Oval	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No major actions 		The oval is of a poor standard, small and has considerable slope. However continued use for occasional social matches and training is easily accommodated
Lawrence Sports Complex	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Playing surface upgrade required as a priority. ▪ Toilets could be replaced and relocated to service soccer fields and tennis. ▪ Possible consideration of lighting for one field in the longer term 		Mostly a local facility with tennis courts and 2 soccer fields. But co-location with golf course and use for training and competition means district level consideration required.
Brooms Head Sports Complex	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future upgrading of courts to consider conversion of one court to multi-use. ▪ Lighting for social play to be considered if community demand exists 	Due to isolation of Brooms Head and limited growth the status of facilities are unlikely to change.	
Brooms Head Oval	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain oval as informal sporting space. ▪ If community demand emerges undertake basic works to configure to 	There may be some seasonal demand (holiday periods) when the field could be temporarily upgraded or configured for specific activities.	Oval is basic only and has no specific configuration.

Facility	Provision Hierarchy	Actions/ Recommendations	Long Term Planning Considerations	Other Comments
		desired field sport.		
Ashby Public Recreation reserve	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain tennis courts with possible consideration of converting one to multi-use. ▪ Consider options for provision of sports field or kickabout space in reserve or acquisition of additional land to provide a field. (approx 1.6 Ha) 		<p>The limited size of the reserve may mean that Harwood Cricket oval will be the nearest field provision for Ashby in the short term until a local field is developed.</p> <p>Would need to liaise with Community Trust</p>
Glenreagh – Shannon Park	Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain as local sports facility. 	While growth in the next 10 years is limited there will eventually be sufficient demand for a local sports field. A decision on providing this field within the recreation reserve or through land acquisition should be made within 10 years.	Shannon Park is constrained and unlikely to be able to accommodate a sports field. In the medium term pursue option of shared facility with the local school until a public field can be developed
Harwood Oval ²³	District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cricket has been developing this oval as a local/ district facility. ▪ Support continued development as Oval sports precinct. ▪ Priority improvement is shade and toilets/ change rooms. 	As this is on private land securing tenure of this site through a long term lease or purchase should be a strategic consideration.	This location may serve growth in Ashby as well and if tenure can be secured a long term focus on developing fields sports here is recommended

²³ Harwood Oval is on private land (Sugar Mill) but council provides some support to the club through mowing,

4. SPORTING FACILITY MANAGEMENT

4.1. PRIORITISING EXPENDITURE

Prioritising both capital and recurrent expenditure is a difficult task for Councils as there is nearly always more need than funding. In addition, even with best practice asset management there are always unforeseen impacts or opportunities which require priorities to be reassessed.

One of the key issues is the need for Council's to demonstrate an equitable process for the attribution of priorities. There are a number of influences which affect how expenditure is prioritised.

- Implementation of strategic plans and master plans
- Implementation of Section 94 plans
- State and federal legislative requirements for asset management
- Opportunistic projects (e.g. when external funding is offered)
- Community need demonstrated and supported by Council
- Operating and maintaining assets to a suitable standard for use
- Recovering assets to a usable state after a major event such as storm or flood
- Community safety concerns (e.g. compliance with Australian Standards or industry/ peak body standards) and other legislative requirements
- Definitions of Core Services or Community Service Obligations. Over time different Councils will have differing views on what these comprise.
- Value for money proposals where partnerships deliver outcomes in excess of the capital input from Council.

Ideally a clear policy framework drives priorities. This means a framework which identifies the outcomes Council is seeking and allows for proposals to be measured by how well they meet policy outcomes.

Further, specific policies associated with key strategies (such as an indoor facilities strategy or a policy on youth physical activity) will provide another layer of prioritisation.

4.1.1. KEY ISSUES

One of the major issues in delivering parks, sport and recreation outcomes is that funding is always constrained, the community expects fast action, capital projects often take several years and the cost of delivering major infrastructure outcomes is such that most councils can only consider limited projects and often only those where some external funding is available to make the council investment "travel further".

Other concerns and observations are:

- Council amalgamations and past approaches to provision which may have led to real and perceived inequities in provision of parks and facilities. Resolving this requires the establishment of a minimum level of service and a staged program addressing any gaps over a number of years.

- Partnerships with community groups, schools, sports clubs and other agencies can offer new or improved opportunities for residents with the added benefit of less capital investment for Council. These “value for money” projects may also offer an alternative asset ownership and management model which addresses emerging concerns about ongoing cost of operations. However for many councils the offer of the capital to complete a key project is considered favourably against the recurrent cost commitment.
- Sometimes limited funds can be better spent on encouraging the development of partnerships between groups which also help to establish sustainable management models.
- The requirement that local governments account for depreciation of assets in their annual budget has a significant impact on recurrent budgets and along with ongoing maintenance and operation costs, has sometimes worked as a disincentive for capital investment.
- Sometimes the focus on providing new facilities ignores the underlying issues associated with the need to make existing facilities more effective work or opportunities to broker access to other community assets such as those within schools which would provide a more efficient model for use of community assets. In other words, spending more on supporting community groups and encouraging multiple use can reduce the need for capital.
- Trends in local government sport and recreation management are seeing increased requirements for longer term planning for capital investment with 3 year, 5 year and 10 year programs now becoming common in Local Government. This planning cycle can be at odds with political cycles sometimes causing rapid reassessment of priorities.

4.1.2. PROPOSED DIRECTION

Overall Council’s aim should be to develop a transparent and equitable method for prioritising expenditure that meets legislative requirements and implements policy and planning.

The proposed direction is to prioritise expenditure according to:

- Sport and Recreation Management Policy which defines the role of Council
- Implementation of S 94 plans
- Ensuring a minimum level of opportunity for all residents according to:
 - Desired Standard of Service for Sport and Recreation facilities
 - Maintaining Assets and Public Safety
 - Value for Money

The implications of this direction are that:

- While implementation of the S 94 plans will be mostly self funded (through charges) and will be governed by a set capital works program, there will be shortfalls and the expectation may be that the priority for any available capital budget will have to be given to the “top up” funds required to deliver on the planned program. This also links to community expectations in regard to delivery of new parks and sporting facilities for growing residential areas
- Priority should be given to projects which provide “value for money” (e.g. those with external or partnership funding) which meet strategic / policy aims.
- Priorities for work on existing sports fields or facilities should be for projects that ensure minimum standards are achieved.

- Implementation of Master Plans and already completed facility plans which have been adopted should also be a priority and could intersect with the implementation of the S 94 accessing some of the capital funding from this source.

4.1.3. PRIORITY ASSESSMENT FOR EXPENDITURE

The following is a possible framework approach for prioritising expenditure on sport and recreation facilities. Priorities should be determined in accordance with the following prioritised areas and individual hierarchies.

Priority Area	Hierarchy
1. Implementation of S.94 Plans for Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Based on Schedule or Population Threshold b) Urgent Acquisitions (or opportunistic and money saving) c) Design and master planning of acquired sites within 2 years of scheduled demand threshold. d) Development of sites within 4 years of scheduled demand threshold
2. Minimum levels of service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Safety and essential maintenance / repair of existing assets/ Compliance with legislation b) High needs area currently lacking any facility c) Upgrading/ developing existing facilities to meet minimum standards d) High need for redevelopment to meet changed community needs e) Upgrades or redevelopments which will reduce ongoing maintenance costs
3. Partnership Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Projects that help meet minimum standards b) Capital Projects for new or upgraded facilities which will be more sustainable through supporting the partnership. c) Offering 50% or greater capital saving or Projects which offer significant savings on original estimates and are overdue for implementation d) Provide a reduced recurrent cost or increase shared use of resources e) Implementation of Master Plans and Strategic Plans f) Projects which have a significant economic benefit and will provide additional sport and recreation opportunities for residents

4.2. COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

One of the recurring themes in sport and recreation planning for local governments is that of information availability and dissemination. While considerable amounts of information are “out there” in the community and Clarence Valley has been developing its web based systems very effectively, there is often a gap in educating the community to use new tools developed in communications and marketing strategies.

Creating incentive or encouragement for community groups and individuals to use and re-use on-line tools is often overlooked and while information is there, the lack of information or awareness about sport and recreation opportunities is still a strong theme in why people don't participate in sport and recreation. It may be more properly expressed as *“people don't know how to access the information or where to go for current information”*.

Sport and Recreation Organisations cited “not knowing” about opportunities for support or being unaware of resources available to them. In addition, the opportunity to network with other clubs and share ideas and learnings is seen as highly desirable by many clubs, but forums to enable this are lacking (apart from the sports councils). There is increasing engagement with social media and on line forums for many areas of interest and it is possible that this approach may work well for the multiple groups in Council's catchment.

Overall the single biggest issue is that information changes rapidly and the people who “need to know” about opportunities also change. The great advantage of the web based communication is that it is cheap to operate, easy to update and can develop organically through links to other sites and information sources.

The development of the council's web portal has been exceptional with not only information out but “channels for information in. In a sports facility and sporting groups sense, the opportunity is to develop a central point for council, clubs, users and potential users to interact and share critical information.

As the communities in Clarence Valley are widely dispersed, the use of web based information is also efficient as there is a high mobility for sporting facility use and competitors do not want to drive for an hour to find that rain has closed a field.

Refining the communication program should consider the following issues:

- Within many sport and recreation organisations the contact person changes every year and this makes it difficult to maintain accurate email and other contact details for a club.
- Within many clubs, internal information circulation can be poor.
- Communication between Council and sport and recreation organisations should be two-way and consistent points of contact within Council are needed.
- There is increasing reliance on internet and email platforms for information dissemination as the advantage of internet sites is that information can be updated rapidly.
- Because of changing roles and the nature of volunteer organisations it is not always easy to get clubs to “opt in” to e mail circulation lists or to update their details.
- New residents often cite difficulties in finding out what sports or activities are available in their area.

- Promotion of sport and recreation opportunities can have a major impact on participation and can be combined with incentives (such as organised events in parks) to encourage residents to be more active or to “discover” new opportunities.
- Information that can support capacity building in volunteer organisations will assist in strengthening the viability of community based groups.

The nature of the hierarchy of facilities within the region and an objective to ensure that sporting events can contribute to local economies, also drives the potential to market facilities and destinations to encourage regional sport tourism as well.

4.2.1. PROPOSED OUTLINE FOR SPORT COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

A possible framework for a communications strategy is provided below:

Purpose:

The purpose of developing a Sport Communication Strategy is to provide a structured approach to communication with residents (including clubs) about sport and recreation across the region. This framework is intended to provide a suggested approach to developing a formal plan or strategy.

Content:

The Communication Plan should be simple, but include the following key areas:

- Aims and principles
- Communication and marketing “tools”
- Branding
- Internal communication
- Target areas including:
 - Residents and information regarding participation in sport
 - General community and watching sport
 - Sports tourism
 - Sport participants and clubs regarding competitions and facilities
 - Training and exercise opportunities
 - Supporting and strengthening volunteers
 - Sports club resources, information and sharing
 - Marketing sport hubs/ key facilities (and managing demand for facilities)

Suggested Approaches to Communication and Engagement

- Create a recognisable ‘sport and recreation’ brand (e.g. “Clarence Sports”) to promote Council’s role in sport and recreation.
- Adopt e-communication strategies such as email networks, and continue to enhance use of Council’s website for promotion of opportunities and information, including reinforcement of a web-portal for sport and recreation (using adopted brand). The web portal should contain a database of clubs and opportunities, with users able to submit information for inclusion (with a moderation check).

- Reinforce the website and on line calendar for planning and promoting events.
- Develop a quarterly Sport and Recreation Newsletter which specifically targets community sport and recreation organisations, and provides a range of articles on 'what's happening' with sport and recreation in the region.
- Promotion of sport and recreation news/ opportunities in local newspapers and newsletters.
- Consider annual 'sport and recreation forums' to meet key stakeholders face-to-face and discuss current issues and emerging needs. The information collected from this forum could feed into the process to review this Plan.

4.3. DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE PROVISION

Sustainable provision of sporting facilities involves the consideration of three aspects; Economics, Social Sustainability and Environment.

Clarence Valley Council has developed a good model of partnership with many clubs which assist in both social and economic sustainability. It has also considered environmental issues in forward planning and planning scheme treatment of sporting facilities. The major issue in sustainable provision for Council is to consider both the lifecycle cost of any facility and the capacity of the council and the community to support it. Complementary to this is the social sustainability of facilities. This means linkage to the community groups and clubs who provide the user base and are usually the organisers of activity and part investors in facility improvements.

While it is acknowledged there is much "history" in the past development and provision of facilities, the following objectives for sustainable provision are suggested so that Council can continue to develop their model to deliver on community needs while making efficient use of resources and not developing facilities that are beyond council and community capacity to manage or maintain.

Economic Objectives:

1. The level of development of any facility should be appropriate for the scale of use proposed.
2. The development and use of a facility should be appropriate to the resources available for operation and maintenance.
3. The capacity of the organisation managing a facility should be sufficient to ensure that the facility can be maintained to an appropriate standard and that there is capacity to plan for expansion and redevelopment in response to growth and changing demands.
4. All new facility development must consider the lifecycle cost of infrastructure and the periodic need for reconfiguration or redevelopment in response to changed needs.
5. Where possible, facilities that have prior over development which is now surplus to needs, should be reviewed for opportunities to remove infrastructure or reconfigure to more contemporary requirements.

Social:

1. Partnerships with clubs and resident user groups is to be encouraged in planning and management of facilities.
2. Groups with management and maintenance responsibilities for an asset should be supported with access to skills and expertise that ensures they are able to plan for and resource maintenance to sufficient standards.
3. Groups self managing facilities should be monitored on performance in meeting minimum standards of maintenance.
4. Consideration of revenue streams to help support groups with management responsibility should form part of negotiations.
5. Council should not transfer responsibilities to groups that are beyond their capacity to deliver (either financially or technically).

Environmental:

1. All facilities should be planned to maximise water saving and energy efficiency.
2. Sporting fields should also be considered part of the greenspace network of the area and opportunities for appropriate planting and landscape identified.
3. Waterways should be protected with buffer planting and treatments to ensure that water quality of streams is not threatened.
4. Use of herbicide, fertilizer and other chemical controls should be subject to a plan for the particular facility and should not be approved by Council unless they are the managers of those activities or council is satisfied that the club or groups has the capacity to manage those activities.

5. PROPOSED CAPITAL WORKS PLAN

	Facility Name	Hierarchy	Recommended Action	Year	Priority	Cost	Field U/G	Amenities	Fencing	L'scape	Design	Other	contingency	comment
Grafton	Ellem Oval (Upper Fisher Park) Lower Fisher Park Grafton Tennis Centre	LGA	Complete Ellem Oval regrade, new irrigation system, complete fencing and reconfigured turf wicket and turf	2012	H	\$120,000	120000						12000	
Grafton	Ellem Oval (Upper Fisher Park) Lower Fisher Park Grafton Tennis Centre	LGA	Plan for additional improvements to spectator and carparking facilities for Ellem Oval precinct as Cricket, Tennis and AFL competition venue. (Consider overall precinct plan / Master Plan (maybe including showgrounds) needed as a medium priority to consider access, parking and other event capacity issues.	2013	M	\$132,000		30000			40000	50000	12000	Depends on discussions with Showground Trust and LPMA
Grafton	Grafton Showgrounds	LGA	Develop strategy for relocating motor sport uses . Consider as part of Integrated Master Plan to be developed for Showgrounds-Fisher Park.	2013	H	\$0							0	
Grafton	Grafton Aquatic Centre	LGA	Develop spectator facilities and capacity as a competition event pool.	2013	M	\$240,000		200000					40000	
Grafton	Westward Park	LGA	Convert grass courts to 3 more hard courts to have a minimum of 10 hard courts with competition standard lights	2014	H	\$420,000	350000						70000	
Grafton	Westward Park	LGA	Develop show court spectator facilities with shade	2015	M	\$180,000		150000		10000			20000	
Grafton	Westward Park	LGA	Develop formal approach to parking with consideration of off-street parking. Investigate development of shared parking space to serve the Pool and the netball courts for larger events and peak competition days.	2017	L	\$120,000						100000	20000	
Grafton South	Hawthorne Rodeo Park	LGA	A precinct master plan should be prepared for the whole reserve which identifies future development priorities/need for covered indoor arena and shared parking and camping zones as well as minimising investment in built amenities. Possible expansion of field sport uses also needs consideration. The existing draft POM will likely need some review following the master plan and feasibility study.	2012	H	\$40,000					30000		10000	Fees for Master Plan
Grafton South	Hawthorne Rodeo Park	LGA	In the short term upgrading electrical supply to the precinct will allow for better event management. But no major facility investment should be undertaken until a new master plan is developed.	2012	H	\$96,000						88000	8000	estimate for power upgrade
Grafton South	Hawthorne Rodeo Park	LGA	Complete dressage arena	2012	H	\$50,000	45000						5000	45000
Grafton South	Hawthorne Rodeo Park	LGA	Cross country pony club course	2015	M	\$40,000	35000						5000	35000
Grafton South	Hawthorne Rodeo Park	LGA	Additional stabling/facilities	2013	H	\$80,000	75000						5000	75000
Grafton South	Hawthorne Rodeo Park	LGA	Upgrade visitor area/camping/facilities	2013	H	\$200,000	180000						20000	180000
Grafton South	Hawthorne Rodeo Park	LGA	General upgrades from POM review and upgrade	2013	H	\$300,000	280000						20000	280000
Grafton South	Rushforth Park	District / LGA	Install lighting for car parking and club area (security	2013	H	\$30,000						22000	8000	

	Facility Name	Hierarchy	Recommended Action	Year	Priority	Cost	Field U/G	Amenities	Fencing	L'scape	Design	Other	contingency	comment
Grafton South	Rushforth Park	District / LGA	High priority to upgrade player and spectator amenities with additional toilets, change facilities, showers and new canteen needed.	2013	H	\$450,000		400000					50000	
Grafton South	Rushforth Park	District / LGA	Lighting improvements for field 1 and another 2 fields to accommodate increased training demand from population growth and to allow for more night use and possible shared use with touch or other social sports.	2014	M	\$388,000						340000	48000	Includes power upgrade to park before lights can be installed
Grafton South	Rushforth Park	District / LGA	Develop as competition venue for football (soccer). Install signage and way finding signs to and within the site.	2012	H	\$10,000						8000	2000	
Grafton South	Rushforth Park	District / LGA	Improve spectator shade and seating for "main" field.	2015	M	\$84,000		50000		20000			14000	
Grafton Surrounds	Barrier Park Recreation Area	Local/ District/ LGA	Master plan should identify best location for a shared toilets and change hub (either as upgrade to existing or new to replace old facilities). Athletics and related fields	2013	H	\$30,000					24000		6000	Fees for Master plan
Grafton Surrounds	Barrier Park Recreation Area	Local/ District/ LGA	Main focus should be to improve athletics track with expansion to proper 400m track and improvement of the grass running surface, subsoil drainage (plan currently being developed for track expansion to regional capacity)	2012	H	\$30,000	25,000						5000	Expansion works underway, allow for drainage upgrade works
Grafton Surrounds	Barrier Park Recreation Area	Local/ District/ LGA	Lighting of track and central field to allow for night training should also be considered in the medium term	2016	M	\$144,000						120000	24000	Lighting
Grafton Surrounds	Barrier Park Recreation Area	Local/ District/ LGA	New/expanded amenities	2018	M	\$250,000	230000						20000	
Grafton Surrounds	Barrier Park Recreation Area	Local/ District/ LGA	Two new tennis/multi purpose hard/courts	2019	L	\$250,000	230000						20000	
Grafton Surrounds	Ternary Park Recreation Area	District	General park improvements and surface upgrade	2016	L	\$100,000	70000					20000	10000	General park improvements
Grafton	Grafton	District	Facilitate a decision from Grafton Rugby League Clubs on choice of location for development of a rugby league hub. Either Frank McGuren- North Park or JJ Lawrence-McKittrick	2012-13	H	\$0							0	
Grafton	Frank McGuren Field	District	Playing surface upgrades and irrigation	2012	H	\$120,000	100000						20000	
Grafton	Frank McGuren Field	District	Improve spectator and operational facilities as grant or other external funding becomes available.	2014	M	\$180,000		150000					30000	
Grafton	North Park	District	Could be considered in association with Frank McGuren field as part of a future RL precinct. Consider preparation of a plan for development as LGA level "home " for RL : Shade, water and lighting to be provided; playing surface upgrade required to level and drain field; More substantial upgrade if any proposal to use for competition; basic perimeter fencing to restrict vehicles.	2012	H-M	\$420,000	200000	75000		50000	20000		75000	Would not proceed if preferred location for hub is JJ Lawrence-McKittrick
Grafton	North Park	District	Basic perimeter fencing to restrict vehicles, grading and seeding site for junior play.	2012	H	\$55,000	30,000		20,000				5000	Could reuse existing fencing. Existing fill material to spread and grade and then seed

	Facility Name	Hierarchy	Recommended Action	Year	Priority	Cost	Field U/G	Amenities	Fencing	L'scape	Design	Other	contingency	comment
Grafton South	Hay St Rugby Union Fields	District	Upgrade playing surface.	2014	M	\$120,000	100000						20000	
Grafton South	Hay St Rugby Union Fields	District	Upgrade spectator facilities and site access and parking	2016	L	\$252,000		130000				80000	42000	
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Lighting for additional training area and other sports uses including Oztag, touch and soccer	2012	H	\$30,000	25000						5000	Can reuse existing lighting in short term
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Consideration of development as a rugby league hub- this would mean development of at least 1 more senior field with major light upgrade	2015	M	\$300,000	280000						20000	
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Overall master plan needed for precinct to centralise parking and access issues and develop single shared amenities hub. Should proceed after decision made re future RL hub. Also address shared use enhancements such as relocating the wickets in JJ Lawrence to maximise potential for shared use with other field sports...	2013	H	\$28,000					24000		4000	fees for master plan
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Improvements to McKittrick Park spectator facilities to allow for use as competition venue.	2015	M	\$210,000		175000					35000	
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Replace old basketball courts with a single multi marked court for local recreation use (subject to a master plan prepared in consultation with the community).	2017	L	\$72,000	60000						12000	
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Bollard treatment recommended to restrict vehicles from playing areas and to define active sporting and recreational uses and carparking areas.	2014	H	\$50,000			40000				10000	
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Continue to develop secondary capacity for football and cricket in the precinct catering for training and some lower level/ junior competition	2015	M	\$310,000	200000			50000			60000	
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Cricket sight screens for McKittrick Oval	2015	M	\$40,000						35000	5000	
Grafton South	JJ Lawrence Fields; McKittrick Park	District	Provide carparking areas	2018	L	\$100,000						90000	10000	
Grafton South	Grafton Indoor Pool	District	Fire damaged elements to be repaired and maintenance to continue.	completed		\$0							0	
Grafton Surrounds	Victoria Park	Local	Provide improved shelter/facilities for sporting users	2013	H	\$60,000		50000					10000	
Grafton Surrounds	Wajard Park	Local	Playing surface upgrade to be provided in short term.	2012	H	\$60,000	50000						10000	Stage 1 of Irrigation system works underway
Grafton Surrounds	Wajard Park	Local	Training lighting to be provided	2013	H	\$120,000	100000						20000	
Grafton Surrounds	Small Park	Local	Upgrade canteen Stage 1	2012	H	\$44,000		40000					4000	
Grafton Surrounds	Small Park	Local	Upgrade canteen Stage 2 and shedding	2014	M	\$20,000		15000					5000	
Grafton Surrounds	Caramana Park	Local	Develop multi-use playing field as demand emerges	2017	M	\$144,000	120000						24000	
Iluka-Woombah	Iluka Oval and tennis courts	District	Upgrading fencing, access and car parking	2015	M	\$108,000		50000				40000	18000	
Iluka-Woombah	Iluka Oval and tennis courts	District	Stage 1 Upgrade from Masterplan, regrade and irrigation	2015	M	\$300,000	250000						50000	

	Facility Name	Hierarchy	Recommended Action	Year	Priority	Cost	Field U/G	Amenities	Fencing	L'scape	Design	Other	contingency	comment
Iluka-Woombah	Iluka Oval and tennis courts	District	Amenities Upgrade	2015	M	\$200,000		180000					20000	
Iluka-Woombah	Charlie Ryan Park- Rowing Shed	District	Extend Rowing Shed	2013	H	\$100,000		\$100,000						
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park Sports Complex Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility Chris O'Connell Netball Courts	District	Overall Master Plan Needed as no current POM - parking and shared access and parking hubs; field redesign and drainage; development of toilets and change facilities shared for field areas; more shade and landscaping.	2012	H	\$32,000					30000		2000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park Sports Complex Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility Chris O'Connell Netball Courts	District	Netball requires at least 2 more hard courts	2014	M	\$240,000	200000						20000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park Sports Complex Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility Chris O'Connell Netball Courts	District	Field redesign for better drainage and sharing of space near netball courts.	2012+	H	\$288,000	240000						48000	Stage 1 works to commence shortly
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park Sports Complex Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility Chris O'Connell Netball Courts	District	Maclean Sports Centre (Indoor Facility)- fit out costs	2012+	H	\$50,000						\$50,000		
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park Sports Complex Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility Chris O'Connell Netball Courts	District	Plan for redevelopment of toilets and change facilities and increased shade cover to service hospital fields and Soccer fields.	2016	M	\$252,000		160000		50000			42000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park Sports Complex Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility Chris O'Connell Netball Courts	District	New cricket shed	2012+	H	\$35,000		30000					5000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Wherrett Park Sports Complex Wherrett Park Sports Fields. Barry Watts Oval New Indoor Facility Chris O'Connell Netball Courts	District	Upgrade power for new lighting and indoor sports centre	2012+	H	\$95,000		90000					5000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Maclean Showground	District	If more use of oval is planned for competition then lighting upgrade would be required.	2016+	M	\$96,000						90000	6000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Maclean Showground	District	Stage 2 road and parking improvements	2017+	M	\$150,000						140000	10000	

	Facility Name	Hierarchy	Recommended Action	Year	Priority	Cost	Field U/G	Amenities	Fencing	L'scape	Design	Other	contingency	comment
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Maclean Showground	District	Stage 3 road and parking improvements	2019+	L	\$150,000						140000	10000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Vacant sports land Townsend	Local	Masterplan for site	2016	M	\$30,000						25000	5000	
Maclean-Townsend-Gulmarrad	Vacant sports land Townsend	Local	Medium term development with multiuse sports court and sport field. Could consider planning as an "integrated" community park with recreational space and meeting facilities. And as main base for single code - juniors.	2018	M	\$564,000	180000	120000	30000	40000	20000	80000	94000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	Review feasibility of plans for field sport stadium development as part of master plan process. Priority actions include additional toilets, change and canteen facilities.	2012	H	\$400,000		350000					50000	Current project seeking grant funding
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	Priority actions include improving existing toilets and change facilities. A central and shared facility to service all the fields on the southern side of the access road is recommended for future AFL/football/touch use.	2013	H	\$192,000		160000					32000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	Playing surface upgrade to improve drainage and resilience is a high priority as fields used by several sports. Extend existing subsoil drainage and surface /turf improvements	2013	H	\$120,000							48000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	Develop as a basic competition facility for District/Junior Cricket and AFL – associated facilities	2017	L	\$204,000	120000			50000			34000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	In the medium term lighting upgrades to south west area suitable for night training/competition.	2016	M	\$288,000						240000	48000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	In the medium term lighting upgrades and establishment of at least one additional rectangular field suitable for night competition is recommended.	2016	M	\$288,000						240000	48000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	Short – Medium term provision for 4 outdoor hard courts to service netball and provide shade	2014	M	\$288,000	240000						48000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Ngayundi Yamba Sports Complex	District	Long term planning should be for 8 outdoor hard courts to service netball (additional four from above).	2018	L	\$300,000	260000						40000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Yamba Oval	District	Improve lighting but ensure infrastructure doesn't impact on potential future use for "oval" sports	2013	H	\$96,000						80000	16000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Yamba Oval (2)	District	Upgrade playing surface and field drainage	2013	H	\$100,000	\$100,000							
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Yamba Oval	District	Need to upgrade player amenities (change and toilets)	2016	M	\$148,000		140000					8000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Honeymoon Sports Complex Wooloweyah	Local	Playing surface should be softened and improved with aeration and a regrade. This should be undertaken only in response to any community demand for training / sport use of the field.	2018	L	\$48,000	40000						8000	

	Facility Name	Hierarchy	Recommended Action	Year	Priority	Cost	Field U/G	Amenities	Fencing	L'scape	Design	Other	contingency	comment
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Honeymoon Sports Complex Wooloweyah	Local	Medium term need for court to be upgraded with possible conversion to multi-marked court.	2016	M	\$72,000	60000						12000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Honeymoon Sports Complex Wooloweyah	Local	Construct tennis practice wall	2016	M	\$40,000	35000						5000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Honeymoon Sports Complex Wooloweyah	Local	Install exercise circuit.	2018	L	\$50,000	45000						5000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Honeymoon Sports Complex Wooloweyah	Local	Wooloweyah tennis court formalise recently cleared area on the eastern side of the courts retaining wall turf shade	2013	H	\$30,000	25000						5000	
Yamba- Angourie-Wooloweyah	Hakea Waters estate	Local	Hakea p/k crystal waters construct basketball half court (note there is no sport facilities west of Angourie road)	2013	H	\$20,000	15000						5000	
Rural Coast, Rural South-West and Rural North-West	Lawrence Sports Complex	District	Possible consideration of lighting for one field in the longer term.	2019	L	\$144,000						120000	24000	
Rural Coast, Rural South-West and Rural North-West	Lawrence Sports Complex	District	Playing surface upgrade required as a priority.	2014	H	\$70,000	60000						10000	
Rural Coast, Rural South-West and Rural North-West	Lawrence Sports Complex	District	Toilets could be replaced and relocated to service soccer fields and tennis.	2019	L	\$156,000		130000					26000	
Rural Coast, Rural South-West and Rural North-West	Harwood Oval	District	Cricket has been developing this oval as a local/ district facility. Support continued development as oval sports precinct. Priority improvement is shade and toilets/ change rooms.	2015	M	\$72,000		60000					12000	contribution to club for facility improvements if they can secure long term tenure (10+ years)
Rural Coast, Rural South-West and Rural North-West	Ashby Public Recreation Reserve	Local	Maintain tennis courts with possible consideration of converting one to multi-use.	2020	L	\$72,000	60000						12000	
Rural Coast, Rural South-West and Rural North-West	Ashby Public Recreation Reserve	Local	Consider options for provision of sports field or kickabout space in reserve or acquisition of additional land to provide a field. (approx 1.6 Ha)	2018	L	\$144,000	120000						24000	
Rural Coast, Rural South-West and Rural North-West	Brooms Head Oval	Local	If community demand emerges undertake basic works to configure to desired field sport.	2016+	L	\$144,000	120000						24000	

APPENDIX ONE- SURVEY RESULTS FROM SPORTING GROUPS

Club Membership Trends

Table 16 – Club Membership trends

ORGANISATION	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/ LOSS	% CHANGE	PREDICTED M'SHIP IN 3 YEARS	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS OBSERVED IN ACTIVITY
Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League	Senior						Kids in junior sport follow cycles with increased sports options, all vying for limited number of players. If teams are full then we are running at max capacity. Sometimes numbers are available to double teams but not often.	
	Junior	150	180	+30	20%			
Far North Coast Branch - Aust Stock Horse Society	Senior	215	304			450	The popularity of the Australian Stock Horse and the variety of equine disciplines they can be used. We have increased membership each year and are now the third largest branch in Australia. This society is the second largest breed society in Australia, the highest being the thoroughbred industry.	We are holding more clinics each year to upgrade our coaches, judges and riders in horsemanship skills.
	Junior	41	56			81		
Grafton Athletics Club	Senior	5	2			2	Increased from 100-140 in two years (07-09) before dropping slightly. Much higher membership compared to 5/6 years ago. Age group for LA's has increased to U/17's from U/15's. No predicted change, except if facilities are	More teenage girls competing, less teenage boys.
	Junior	100	130			130		

ORGANISATION	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	PREDICTED M'SHIP IN 3 YEARS	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS OBSERVED IN ACTIVITY
							updated – increased numbers.	
Grafton District Golf Club Ltd	Senior	-	-			-	-	-
	Junior	-	-			-		
Grafton Ghosts Senior Rugby League Football Club	Senior						Increased since 2007 – improved recruitment, better on field performances creates greater interest in the game. Would think it is likely to stay similar as we can only field 3 teams in the competition.	Increased costs across the organisation. Declining Volunteers.
	Junior							
Grafton Junior Rugby League Club	Senior	105	150			180	New enthusiastic volunteers, quality coaching, low costs compared to other sports.	More red tape which makes it hard for volunteers.
	Junior							
Grafton Men's touch Football Association	Senior	120	60			0	Insurance has become dear with no claims. Lack of committee and workers. Lack of committee and workers.	No volunteer numbers. I have run this with 1 or 2 volunteers for past 7 years.
	Junior	80	20			0		
Grafton Rowing Club	Senior	67	52			85	Active membership within the GRC has remained reasonably stable. This years flood season has reduced numbers slightly. River flooding and damage created by such greatly affects the operation of the Club. The GRC is actively working towards increasing its active membership. This is being undertaken by the introduction of a learn to row program for masters rowers and the development of GRC as a	There has been a growing trend towards social rowing participating in "in house" competition. The GRC is being used more and more for rowing camps by metropolitan rowing clubs due to the unique nature of the rowing course and the quality of facilities available.
	Junior	13	7			15		

ORGANISATION	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	PREDICTED M'SHIP IN 3 YEARS	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS OBSERVED IN ACTIVITY
							regional centre for rowing excellence and training. Junior membership is anticipated to remain stable.	
Grafton Women's Hockey Association	Senior	320	340			340	Membership numbers vary slightly each year e.g. juniors leaving town for work or university, seniors returning or leaving to have family, natural occurrences of people leaving or moving into the area.	The hope of more state championships when our 2 nd water based turf is installed.
	Junior	417	432			440		
Iluka Golf Club	Senior	-	-			-	-	-
	Junior	-	-			-	-	-
Maclean Football Club	Senior	40	50			75	Increased profile of sport. Football becoming more popular for juniors.	Declining Volunteers
	Junior	170	180			220		
Yamba Breakers Netball Club	Senior	30	17			20	Travelling to play, lack of local training facilities – current fields not maintained and in poor condition, especially with run off from neighbouring development.	Declining volunteers. Because junior play mornings and seniors play afternoons, it means families either have to spend all day in Maclean or travel up there twice.
	Junior	130	100			100		
Yamba Cricket Club	Senior	24	20			36	We are trying to build our junior numbers by introducing the milo cricket program to the 5-8 year old kids. The milo program will give us a breeding ground for the u/10's and u/12's which we hope to double our current numbers.	Kids numbers have fallen because we don't encourage them enough to play sport or there is just too much choice these days.
	Junior	40	55			70		

ORGANISATION	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	PREDICTED M'SHIP IN 3 YEARS	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS OBSERVED IN ACTIVITY
Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club	Senior	91	104			120	Membership in junior numbers due to several factors – more activities for members, strong committee (parents) leadership, schools promotion, higher profile in media, 100 year celebrations. The growth in junior members is expected to increase with greater promotion and direction, with carnival participation promoted. Senior membership will increase with junior parents in live saving awards training.	Social membership has grown annually, particularly with gym membership and supporters group.
	Junior	131	171			200		
Yamba Touch Association	Senior	250	250			300	No major change. Population growth and school numbers increasing.	Declining volunteer numbers, rising playing fees.
	Junior	120	100			150		
Westlawn Tigers Football Club	Senior	42	57			65	Possibly stable and motivated committee – perception that club is well organised.	-
	Junior	142	223			260		
Lawrence Soccer Club	Senior	-	-			-	Membership has remained static. No change expected.	-
	Junior	36	37			36		
Grafton Polocrosse Club	Senior	3	27			24-36	Membership has increased due to having local	More playing members from out

ORGANISATION	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	PREDICTED M'SHIP IN 3 YEARS	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS OBSERVED IN ACTIVITY
	Junior	0	5			12-18	<p>playing members putting into place a recruitment drive for more playing members along to North Coast.</p> <p>We predict that junior numbers will increase dramatically as Polocrosse gains more exposure. Senior numbers should only rise at a steady rate.</p>	of the Clarence Valley. Need more local participation.
Yamba Football Club	Senior	18	40			60	<p>Active effort by the club has increased player numbers.</p> <p>As our club grows more governance has focused on growing player members. Also the population is growing.</p>	<p>Increased number of 30 years plus players.</p> <p>Increased volunteer participation.</p>
	Junior	120	180			220		
Coutts Cougars Football Club	Senior	0	18			50	<p>Some changes to competition formation based on recommendations from the Crawford Report saw our numbers stagnate a little.</p> <p>The formation of a senior team in 2010 will lead to a continued growth of the club as we will be able to cater for all age groups.</p>	<p>We have a good volunteer base. Increased population and the senior base has provided an increased social aspect in the club. We have discussed the possibility of a summer evening comp.</p>
	Junior	70	44			92		
Grafton Rugby Club	Senior	108	107			107	<p>At junior level, kids have a good time, less onus on winning. Having a local competition for age groups below 12, therefore there is no travelling to other towns.</p> <p>No change in juniors as competition only caters for 4 sides. Competition for players will be the same as it is now. Juniors have larger scope to increase teams to local competition. Rugby popular on a Friday night for players and parents at junior level.</p>	<p>At junior level, parents help greatly reduces after they turn 15 years of age.</p>
	Junior	136	151			180		
Lower Clarence Netball	Senior	-	-			-	There is not the volunteers to take on coaching	If we had better lights on courts,

ORGANISATION	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	PREDICTED M'SHIP IN 3 YEARS	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS OBSERVED IN ACTIVITY
Club	Junior	-	-			-	and managing of teams, thus numbers drop. Work commitments of players In order to increase, working on getting volunteers t go into school to recruit players.	evening competition could be run, picking up players who work on weekends.
North Coast Western Riders Club Inc	Senior		45				Increased – dedicated committee members, more sponsorships, more advertising of events, rookie introduction/ training/ show days, website. Anticipated increase due to more clinics/ training days and advertising.	More beginners who want to learn from start about the disciplines.
	Junior		8					
	Total	15	40			60		
Majos Soccer Club	Senior	0	16			0-16	Number of junior plays has decreased by 23% over the last 3 years and by over 50% in last 8 years: Increased cost of living and cost of fees The introduction of small sided football Players aged 15+ transfer to clubs with senior teams in higher divisions Predicted to decrease to the increasing cost of registration and availability and lower cost of other sports, and more promotion of other sports. Declining numbers of volunteers.	Necessary to combine age groups due to drop in player numbers. Declining volunteers
	Junior	142	109			80		
	Total	142	125			80-96		
Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group (7 user groups of Hawthorne Park)	Senior	450	650			850	Increase has occurred for Grafton Riding Club – particularly as dressage appears to have increased demand for competitions and training. Increase in Pony Club – more children under 10	Declining volunteers – always a shortage of helpers to work on committees but they will actually help out on the day of the
	Junior	150	200			250		
	Total	600	850			1100		

ORGANISATION	MEMBER TYPE	M'SHIP AS AT 3 YRS AGO	CURRENT M'SHIP	GAIN/LOSS	% CHANGE	PREDICTED M'SHIP IN 3 YEARS	REASON FOR VARIATION	TRENDS OBSERVED IN ACTIVITY
							years. Western Club increase in reining activities. Polocrosse has recently reopened the CV club activity. Increase as the facilities we use improve and can accommodate more horses, people & events.	events. People do not want to commit to a committee role and the responsibility and work involved.
Lawrence Golf and Sports Clubs Inc.	-	-	-			-		

Building/ Land Tenure

SPORT	ORGANISATION	BUILDING/ LAND TENURE
Rugby League	Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League	No formal arrangement
	Grafton Ghosts Senior Rugby League Football Club	Leased from Council
	Grafton Junior Rugby League Club	Leased from Council
Horse Sports	Far North Branch Australian Stock Horse Society	Leased from Council
	Grafton Polocrosse Club	Leased from Council
	North Coast Western Riders Club Inc	Leased from Council
	Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group (7 user groups of Hawthorne Pk)	Other – Crown Land
Touch Football	Grafton Men's Touch Football	Leased from Council
	Yamba Touch Association	Other – Crown Land
Rowing	Grafton Rowing	Leased from Council
Hockey	Grafton Women's Hockey Association	Leased from Council
Football	Maclean Football Club	Leased from Council; Other – Maclean Hospital
	Westlawn Tigers Football Club	Unsure
	Lawrence Soccer Club	No formal arrangement
	Yamba Football Club	Leased from Council
	Coutts Cougars Football Club	Leased from Council
	Majos Soccer Club	Leased from Council
Netball	Yamba Breakers Netball	No formal arrangement
	Lower Clarence Netball Association	-
Cricket	Yamba Cricket Club	No formal arrangement
Surf Lifesaving	Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club	Leased from other – Lands Office
Rugby Union	Grafton Rugby Club	Other – Crown land

Existing Facility Usage and Level of Satisfaction

ORGANISATION	NAME OF FACILITY	LEVEL OF SATISFACTION	REASON FOR SATISFACTION/ DISSATISFACTION
Rugby League			
Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League	Wherrett Park, Maclean	4	Serves as our training base. Central to most from high school. Limited space available. Last 3 seasons drainage and group closures major problem.
	Yamba Sporting Complex	4	Lack of toilet facilities. Slowness to upgrade playing surfaces.
Grafton Ghosts Senior Rugby League Football Club	Frank McGurren Field	3 1 3	Needs work. Pitch is very hard Fencing around perimeter is very poor and unsecure Could use a broadcast box with electricity for side of field.
Grafton Junior Rugby League Club	Frank McGurren Field	7	Field still needs work, but much improved over the last couple of years.
	North Street Field	1	Field is very uneven. Some parts cannot be used due to wheel ruts and holes.
Horse Sports			
Far North Coast Branch – Aust Stock Horse Society	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton	5	One of the best equine facilities to hold a competition in NSW
Grafton Polocrosse Club	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton	4	Facilities are set up for all equestrian activities. Improvements are required on playing area i.e. weed control, laser levelling.
North Coast Western Riders Club Inc	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton		Due to weather conditions (heavy rain/ extreme heat) 40% of shows/ clinics have to be cancelled. A roof over the existing western/ cutting arena would resolve this issue. Weeds – Council does not maintain a good standard of getting rid of weeds in camping areas/ yards/ arena.

ORGANISATION	NAME OF FACILITY	LEVEL OF SATISFACTION	REASON FOR SATISFACTION/ DISSATISFACTION
Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group (7 user groups of Hawthorne Park)	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton	4	Facilities have steadily improved over past 5 years as a result of grant funds, hard work by several clubs in particular campdraft and pony club members.
Athletics			
Grafton Athletics Club	Pine Street Oval (Barnier Park)	3-4	Not quite 400m / 8 lane track. Small clubhouse/ shed for canteen facility & storage Old toilets – unhygienic e.g. no tap in male toilets
Golf			
Grafton District Golf Club Ltd.	-	-	-
Iluka Golf Club	-	-	-
Touch Football			
Grafton Men's Touch Football Association	Lower Fisher Park, Grafton	4	
Yamba Touch Association	Touch Fields	2	Pot holes, lack of maintenance, undulating playing surface. Toilets & change rooms – overused and undersupplied.
Rowing			
Grafton Rowing Club	Grafton Water Brigade Building, Memorial Park, Grafton	4	CVC is quite helpful and responsive with assistance with maintenance and repair.
	Boat Shed, Riverbank – Memorial Park, Grafton	4	CVC's assistance with repairs and clean up after floods such as electrical and flood mud removal is excellent. The grounds are maintained in good order as well as repairs and maintenance of the river bank.
Hockey			
Grafton Women's Hockey Association	Lower Fish Park, Grafton	5	Used by cricket and touch football in months when not used for hockey, and is therefore well maintained.
Football			
Maclean Football Club	Barry Watts Oval	4	Good drainage, quality surface.

ORGANISATION	NAME OF FACILITY	LEVEL OF SATISFACTION	REASON FOR SATISFACTION/ DISSATISFACTION
	Wherrett Park Junior Fields	2	Poor drainage, no change rooms
	Hospital Field	3	Poor drainage, no facilities (toilets, change rooms etc)
	Maclean Showground	4	Good facilities, poor standard of field due to other uses.
Westlawn Tigers Football Club	Barnier Park	4	Adequate facilities
Lawrence Soccer Club	Lawrence Sports Ground	Field 1- 2 Field 2- 4 Toilets- 1	Field 1 – field not drained, no fall downhill at site, water ponds after small amounts of rain on top side of ground, ground retains water for extended periods. Field 2 – field is well grassed and drains well Toilets located a long way from main field and look shabby.
Yamba Football Club	Angourie Sports Complex	4	Field could be improved in quality and the facilities need to be taken to the next level.
Coutts Cougars Football Club	Wajard Park	3	We have been very happy with the grounds keeping staff. Out surface needs considerable work. There are the breeds of grass that need eradicating and we need an underground sprinkler system so we can maintain the surface.
Majos Soccer Club	Rushforth Park, South Grafton	Avg 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lighting around amenities, car park and roadway is inadequate. ▪ Amenities are unattractive and inadequate – lack of internal and external lighting, insufficient number of toilets and change rooms, no showers and hot water. ▪ Only one field has adequate lighting for night use which results in overuse of this field and limits the number of games played at night. ▪ Canteen facilities are an eyesore and have a lack of decent food preparation areas, limiting sales to confectionary, drinks and pre-cooked food. ▪ Fields (other than field 1) are in good condition and managed well by Council. ▪ Fields look good but amenities block and canteens unpleasant and un-inviting appearance do little to promote the sport. ▪ Vandal-proof bins are required for carnival days.

ORGANISATION	NAME OF FACILITY	LEVEL OF SATISFACTION	REASON FOR SATISFACTION/ DISSATISFACTION
Netball			
Yamba Breakers Netball Club	Yamba Sports Complex	1	Courts poorly maintained due to low lying area, constantly damp and unable to be mowed. Mainly due to runoff from the newly built Raymond Laurie Centre. Grass courts not suitable for majority of teams to train on. Payment for use of indoor courts next door not a financially viable option.
Lower Clarence Netball Association	Wherrett Park	3	Parking, draining problem.
Cricket			
Yamba Cricket Club	Yamba Oval	4	Great venue. Needs more toilets and grandstand to encourage high profile events.
	Yamba Sports Complex	4	Great venue. Needs more toilets, shelters and seating.
Surf Lifesaving			
Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club	Main Beach Clubhouse	3	Insufficient storage space for equipment.
Rugby Union			
Grafton Rugby League	Hey Street Rugby Park	4	Great venue for rugby. Most modifications and enhancements have been paid for a carried out by the rugby club.
		3	The fields are in urgent need of top dressing and levelling. Need to poison out rouge grasses in field and promote kikuya (process started by Council – need to follow up.

Facility Usage

ORGANISATION	PLAYING SEASON	NAME OF FACILITY	DAY & TIME USED	TYPE OF USE	APPROX No.	SHARED USE
Rugby League						
Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League	Training – March Playing April – Sept.	Wherrett Park, Maclean	Tues/ Thurs 4-5.30	Training	150	Yes
			Saturday 8.30-3 pm	Games	500	Yes
		Yamba Sporting Complex	Saturday 8.30 – 3 pm	Games	500	Yes
Grafton Ghosts Senior Rugby League Football Club	March – September	Frank McGurran Field	Tues & Thurs 6 pm – 8 pm 10am – 5 pm Sundays / Sat sometimes	Training Competition	60 + large crowd.	Yes
Grafton Junior Rugby League Club	March – September	Frank McGurran Field	Monday 4.00-5.30 pm Tuesday 4.00-5.30 pm Wednesday 4.00-5.00 pm Thursday 4.00-6.00 pm Saturday 8 am – 4 pm	Training Training Training Training Competition	40 80 20 120 150	Yes – Grafton Ghost Seniors and Westlawn School
Horse Sports						
Far North Coast Branch – Aust Stock Horse Society	January – December	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton	Sat/ Sun 8am – 6 pm Currently use in Mark only, but plan to run clinics throughout the year if available on dates chosen by committee.	Championship Show and Futurities	250	No
Grafton Polocrosse Club	April – September	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton	Weekends early Feb, March, April Weekend - July	Training Competition	30 500-2000 (varies greatly)	Yes
North Coast Western Riders Club	February – November	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton	Monthly			

ORGANISATION	PLAYING SEASON	NAME OF FACILITY	DAY & TIME USED	TYPE OF USE	APPROX NO.	SHARED USE
Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group (7 user groups of Hawthorne Park)	Jan – December	Hawthorne Park, South Grafton	Every weekend, some weekdays (school holiday camps, inter-schools events or one off training clinics) Sat-Sun 7 am – 7 pm Weekday camps – 24 hours x 7 days Clinics 24 hours x 2 or 3 days Inter-schools 24 hours x 2 or 3 days.	Training and competition Camps Social outings	Depends on event - from 5 to 800 people – competitors, spectators.	Yes – 7 clubs.
Athletics						
Grafton Athletics Club	October – March (Easter)	Pine Street Oval (Barnier Park)	Friday 5-8 pm Various	Competition Training (not just club members)	80-100	Yes – school carnivals, Westlawn Soccer.
Golf						
Grafton District Golf Club Ltd.						
Iluka Golf Club	-	-	-	-	-	-
Touch Football						
Grafton Men's Touch Football Association	November – March	Lower Fisher Park, Grafton	Tuesday 5.00-7.00 pm	Competition	80	
Yamba Touch Association	All year round	Touch Fields	Wednesday 5.00 – 8.00 pm	Competition	250-350	Yes - Jnr soccer, cricket, jnr & snr league, boxing club, snr soccer, dog club.
Rowing						
Grafton Rowing Club	All year round. Regatta season: September – May.	Grafton Water Brigade Building	Used once a month for club and special meetings.	Meeting room/ training facility. Seminars for coaching, boat	15-20	Grafton High – after hrs tr'ning for 1 wk, 4-5 x yr.

ORGANISATION	PLAYING SEASON	NAME OF FACILITY	DAY & TIME USED	TYPE OF USE	APPROX NO.	SHARED USE
				race officialising and learn to row training. Storage facility. Museum.		Dragon boat club - bank & facil – train/ comp. Jacaranda Carnival 1/yr. Big River Ski Club: bank & facil – occas. comp. Grounds & facilities -other club regattas.
		Boat Shed	7 days a week all year round. Generally 5 am – 10 am and 3 pm – 9 pm weeks days and longer periods on weekends.	Main equipment storage, training facility, social and competitive rowing.	30 most days. Regattas attract between 200-400 rowers.	
Hockey						
Grafton Women's Hockey Association	1 st Sat in April – last Sat in September.	Lower Fisher Park	Used most afternoons – junior teams and some senior teams. Mon, Tues, Sun 4.00 – 9.00 pm Wed 6.00 – 10.00 pm Sat 9.00 am – 8.30 pm	Training Training Competition Competition	330 over all days. 120 120 700	Yes Grounds – cricket, touch football Facilities – AFL during winter. School sport, Grafton Men's Hockey, Junior Boys Hockey.
Football						
Maclean Football Club	April – September Summer comp: November – December	Barry Watts Oval	Monday – Friday 4 pm – 6 pm Sat 9 am – 5 pm	Training Competition	100 200	Yes – schools, cricket club, rugby league club.
		Wherrett Park Junior Fields	Monday – Friday 4.00 – 8.00 pm Sat 9.00 am – 12.00 pm	Training Competition	100 200	

ORGANISATION	PLAYING SEASON	NAME OF FACILITY	DAY & TIME USED	TYPE OF USE	APPROX NO.	SHARED USE
		Hospital Field	Monday – Friday 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm Sat 9.00 am – 3.00 pm	Training Competition	25 50	
		Maclean Showground	Friday 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Competition	100	
Westlawn Tigers Football Club	April to August	Barnier Park	Mon- Sat	Training and competition	Up to 120 (gala days)	No
Lawrence Soccer Club	April to September	Lawrence Sports Grounds	Friday 4 pm – 5.30 pm Saturday 8.30 am – 11.30 am	Training Competition	-	Yes – Lawrence Golf Club, tennis courts.
Yamba Football Club	April - September	Angourie Sports Complex	Tues, Wed, Thurs, Friday – 4 pm - 8 pm Sat 0 8 am – 5 pm		30 100+	Yes – Touch football, dog training, cricket, rugby league
Coutts Cougars Football Club	Jan – September	Wajard Park, Coutts Crossing	Tues, Wed, Thurs – 4 pm – 6 pm Sat – 9 am – 3 pm	Training Competition	20 20-60	Yes – school croquet club
Majos Soccer Club	April – September	Rushforth Park, South Grafton	Mon – Friday 3.30 pm – 5 pm, Mon 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm Friday 5.30 pm – 9.00 pm Sat 8.30 am – 1.00 pm Sat 1.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Training Training Comp (15-16's) Comp Jnrs Comp Snrs	100 16 60 + spect. 200 + spect 60 + spect.	Yes – South Services Soccer Club (Grunners) Grafton City Soccer Club, Super Oldies Soccer, schools (occasional), cricket (summer) and the public.
Netball						
Yamba Breakers Netball Club	February – October	Yamba Sports Complex	If usable it would be 5 days a week during netball season and possible summer twilight games.	If playable – training, games, interschool comps	Could be up to 150.	
Lower Clarence	February - September	Netball Complex	Tuesday 3.45 – 9 pm	Rep training	30 players	Yes – all schools,

ORGANISATION	PLAYING SEASON	NAME OF FACILITY	DAY & TIME USED	TYPE OF USE	APPROX NO.	SHARED USE
Netball Association		Netball Complex	Wednesday 4.30 pm – 6.30 pm	Rep Training	20 players	Maclean Netball Club, Disabilities group.
		Wherrett Park Maclean	Saturday 10.30 am – 4.00 pm	Winter Comp	350 players	
Cricket						
Yamba Cricket Club	October long weekend – Easter	Yamba Oval	Tues, Wed, Thurs – 4.00 pm – 6.30 pm Friday 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm Saturday 8.00 am – 6.00 pm Sunday 9.00 am – 6.00 pm	Training U/16's comp U/14's comp, seniors Rep cricket	15-30 20-30 20-60 20-30	Rugby union.
		Yamba Sports Complex	Saturdays 8.00 am – 6.00 pm	U/14's and seniors comp	20-70	Touch football, soccer
Surf Lifesaving						
Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club	October – April	Main Beach Clubhouse/ gym	Daily 5.00 am – 9.00 pm	Gym use daily Award training held weekly	20-30 10-20 in squads	
		Main Beach	Weekends	Patrols Members Juniors	10-20 40-50 120-150	
Touch Football						
Rugby Union						
Grafton Rugby Club	Jan - October	Hay Street Rugby Park	Jan – Sept: Tues, Thurs – 6 pm – 8 pm March – Oct: Mon, Wed, April – Oct: Friday April – Oct: Sat 11.30 am – 5 pm	Training Training Night comp Competition	50 seniors 150 juniors 90 juniors 90 seniors	Yes – schools, touch, golden oldies rugby.

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Essential Facility Needs

ORGANISATION	NEED	PRIORITY – SHORT/ MEDIUM OR LONG TERM	RATIONALE FOR FACILITY NEED	APPROX COST
Rugby League				
Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League	Toilets / Change Rooms at Yamba	Short Term	Shared toilets at Yamba complex with soccer. 2 ladies toilets and 1 male toilet to service over 800 people.	\$200,000
	Playing area expansion	Short Term	Shared fields on Saturdays with soccer. Fields need maintenance.	\$5,000 - \$10,000
	Covered seating and more facilities	Medium Term	To attract Regional games and tournaments better facilities are needed.	\$200,000
Grafton Ghosts Senior Rugby League Football Club	-	-	-	-
Grafton Junior Rugby League Club	We need the surface of North St field repaired to train safely	Short Term	We have too many kids training at Frank McGurren field. There is not enough room to train.	
	North Street field to be made to game standard for competition games.	Medium Term		
	If growth continues we will need more playing fields North Grafton.	Long Term		
Horse Sports				
Far North Coast Branch of the Australian Stock Horse Society	Upgrade of power supply. More lighting between camping, stables, toilets and canteen facilities. Lights for campdraft arena to allow night competition to be held.	Short Term	A must for all users of this park as power trips out when more than a few facilities are used. Night time is dangerous to walk anywhere due to lack of lighting.	

ORGANISATION	NEED	PRIORITY – SHORT/ MEDIUM OR LONG TERM	RATIONALE FOR FACILITY NEED	APPROX COST
Grafton Polocrosse Club	Weed Control	Short Term	Competitors travel from a variety of regions in Australia and the spread of weeds needs to be controlled (Parramatta grass).	\$1,000
	Laser levelling of fields	Medium Term	A level playing surface is required. Funds are the main reason it is a medium term priority.	\$10,000
	Competition lighting	Long Term	This will increase the size, calibre and strength of carnivals held in Grafton. It will also increase local participation.	\$100,000
Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group (7 user groups)	Competition standard Dressage Arena	Short Term	National events and state level events have large entries and the number of stables and camping facilities on site and number of amenities (toilets and showers) are insufficient for the number of people attending.	\$20,000
	Level Polocrosse Playing Fields	Short Term		\$100,000
	More stables – larger for accommodating bigger horses (or covered yards)	Short Term		\$250,000
	Upgrade lighting and power to facilities	Short Term	Currently shorts out a lot.	\$50,000
	Develop use of the old tip site for polocrosse dressage, carriage driving or an all purpose events grassed arena with lights and seating.	Medium Term	Existing space where tip was located will become available for development in this time and increased grass arena space will allow for clubs to apply for and run larger events or shows (top up earth works, levelling and turf).	\$400,000
	Covered arena with seating lighting and more amenities.	Long Term	Several clubs would use for ‘entertainment’ use during events such as ability to run high quality show, dressage, western, reining and cutting events as well as all weather venue for clinics and training facility.	\$400,000
Athletics				

ORGANISATION	NEED	PRIORITY – SHORT/ MEDIUM OR LONG TERM	RATIONALE FOR FACILITY NEED	APPROX COST
Grafton Athletics Club	Improved Fencing	Short Term	Old, dangerous.	
	Extension of oval	Short Term	To have a 400m / 8 lane track	
	New amenities block / clubhouse (storage shed/ canteen)	Short Term		
Golf				
Grafton District Golf Club Ltd				
Iluka Golf Club				
Touch Football				
Grafton Men's Touch Football Association	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Yamba Touch Association	More toilets and change rooms	Short Term	Inadequate for the number of users at any one time.	\$250,000
	Proper drainage and laser-level playing surfaces	Short Term	Reduce risk of injuries and enable more playing weeks despite wet weather.	\$50,000
	Improved canteen and storage facilities	Medium Term	Shared facilities already which are inadequate. Need bigger areas and storage space.	\$200,000
	Irrigation from Waste Treatment Plan.	Long Term	Better quality surface	\$250,000
Rowing				
Grafton Rowing club	Extra space for boating equipment and training facility.	Short Term	The existing club facility is at its maximum capacity. An increase in membership numbers will necessitate an increase in equipment which	

ORGANISATION	NEED	PRIORITY – SHORT/ MEDIUM OR LONG TERM	RATIONALE FOR FACILITY NEED	APPROX COST
			subsequently is impacted upon by available space.	
	Development of River Bank Boating area.	Short Term	The river bank boating area requires expansion to cater for increased numbers and for regattas.	
	Museum facility	Short Term	The GRC is presently developing a museum display of rowing on the Clarence since the early 1800s. At present the only available space, out of flood, is the Water Brigade building.	
	Training and accommodation facilities and associated amenities.	Medium Term	To expand the club as a training facility requires the provision of off water premises. The facility would need office/ auditorium room for seminars and lectures incorporating audio visual techniques, gymnasium area for erg and weight training with computerised assessment techniques. In association with the above comes along the need for catering and accommodation facilities.	
Hockey				
Grafton Women's Hockey Association	Completion of bunk house and clubhouse.	Short Term	Refer to Grafton Hockey Association Survey.	
Football				
Maclean Football Association	Lighting Barry Watts Oval	Short Term	There is no football field in Maclean that has lights. Therefore, we have to play all our home night games at Yamba and training is restricted to junior teams.	\$220,000
	Viewing area on new change room facilities.	Short Term	An area that our supporters can sit or stand to view our games.	
Westlawn Tigers Football Club	-	-		
Lawrence Soccer Club	Lockup shed located between field 1 and 2	Short Term	Club has no location to store soccer nets, portable goals, training aids, canteen table, BBQ.	
	Canteen with power (can be attached to storage shed)	Medium Term	Club currently runs canteen for home games using a portable table and BBQ. No hot water facilities, power for pie ovens, bain-marie etc. Canteen run in open air – subject to weather.	

ORGANISATION	NEED	PRIORITY – SHORT/ MEDIUM OR LONG TERM	RATIONALE FOR FACILITY NEED	APPROX COST
Yamba Football Club	Upgrade clubhouse	Short Term	Will improve revenue, spectator experience and help to satisfy Good Sports requirements.	\$60,000
	Improved quality of main field	Medium Term	Current conditions are not ideal for the sport.	\$20,000
	Improved spectator seating	Long Term	Growth in the club will grow numbers of spectators i.e. revenue.	\$100,000
Coutts Cougars Football Club	Development of a second field	Short Term		
	Underground sprinkler system	Short Term	In order to drought proof and maintain playing surface	
	Training lights	Short Term	We have a senior team that currently train in the dark which is unsafe. We are looking to expand our senior base.	
	Shower and change room facilities	Medium Term	Require this if we are going to participate in Premier League or Premier reserve competition.	
	Lights rated 100 lux	Medium Term	So we can host night games. This will alleviate the pressure of Rushforth Park and Barnier Park.	
Majors Soccer Club	Develop a plan for the improvement of Rushforth Park facilities, including new clubhouse facilities (amenities sufficient for two teams with hot water showers, lights, change rooms, toilets, store room, meeting room, canteen, shades and sun shelters, tree planting & beautification).		Compare Lower Fisher Park, Raymond Laurie Sporting Complex, Maclean Sporting Fields with the old, outdated, unsightly and inadequate facilities at Rushforth Park. Improvement is essential to keep the sport vibrant and developing.	
	Commence the building of new facilities.		Upgraded facilities in line with NCFZ competition standards will allow top games of soccer to be played locally and will attract more players to the game.	

ORGANISATION	NEED	PRIORITY – SHORT/ MEDIUM OR LONG TERM	RATIONALE FOR FACILITY NEED	APPROX COST
	Improve lighting of the areas surrounding the fields – carpark, canteen, amenities.		Will improve safety for participants when entering and exiting the fields/ amenities.	
	Erect signs on main roads (Ryan, Bent Street) informing players of location of Rushforth Park and a “Rushforth Park Sporting Fields” sign at Rushforth Park.		Will make it easier for players (out of town and new) to find the fields. Will enhance soccer promotion and help participants to feel like the community supports them.	
	Installation of lights on a second playing field (Field 2)		Allows more soccer to be played and/or allows alternating use of fields which is assist in maintaining field condition.	
	Continued maintenance of main playing field.		Fields in good condition prevent injuries to players, increase player satisfaction and enjoyment and lead to increased participation.	
Netball				
Yamba Breakers Netball	Courts need raising (filled) and hard surfacing.	Short Term	Dur to the low lying are of the courts and the fact they are grassed surface, and the only community courts available in town. They are unusable.	\$140,000
	Clubhouse	Short Term	So a local comp could be run and would also benefit the indoor centre making more usable courts available close by.	
Lower Clarence Netball Association	Courts to be resurfaced.	Short Term		
	Parking Area	Short Term		
	Drainage	Short Term		
	Concrete under shade area, down side front of building.	Short Term		
	At least 2 more hardcourts	Short Term	To hold bigger carnivals than we can now.	

ORGANISATION	NEED	PRIORITY – SHORT/ MEDIUM OR LONG TERM	RATIONALE FOR FACILITY NEED	APPROX COST
Cricket				
Yamba Cricket	Shelters, seating and toilets at Yamba Sports Complex	Short Term	Just some basic needs for this venue	\$60,000
	Grandstand for Yamba Oval	Long Term	This would five undercover seating upgrade of toilets, storage for equipment and finish off a great venue for major events.	\$500,000
Surf Lifesaving				
Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club	Storage space required for life saving equipment – boats, boards, possible jet ski.	Short Term	We currently have to pay for equipment storage away from the beach. Boats and boards are stored offsite.	
Rugby Union				
Grafton Rugby Club	Fields to be top dressed and levelled and grass growth promoted.	Short Term	Field becoming dangerous for play	\$10,000
	Barrier to eastern side of ground – using advertising signs as fence.	Short Term	For better advertising to sponsors. To keep spectators away from the side of ground.	\$5,000
	Drain in front of clubhouse	Short Term	To keep water away from front of clubhouse	\$5,000
	More spectator seating	Medium Term	To make watching rugby more comfortable.	\$8,000
	Extend clubhouse to the south. Incorporate separate kitchen/ storage/ more toilet facilities	Long Term	To continually upgrade facilities and create a great venue for rugby/ spectators and for Grafton as a whole.	\$80,000
Multi-sport				
Lawrence Golf and Sports Clubs	Upgrade clubhouse and tennis courts.	-	-	-

Club Planning

SPORT	CLUB	DOES ORGANISATION HAVE A DEVELOPMENT/ BUSINESS PLAN
Rugby League	Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League	Yes
	Grafton Ghosts Senior Rugby League Football Club	-
	Grafton Junior Rugby League Club	Currently being developed
Horse Sports	Grafton Polocrosse Club	Yes
	Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group (7 user groups of Hawthorne Park)	No
Athletics	Grafton Athletics Club	No
Golf	Grafton District Golf Club	-
	Iluka Golf Club	-
Touch Football	Grafton Men's Touch Football Association	No
	Yamba Touch Association	No
Rowing	Grafton Rowing Club	No
Hockey	Grafton Women's Hockey	Currently being developed
Football	Macleay Football Club	No
	Westlawn Tigers Football Club	No
	Lawrence Soccer Club	No
	Yamba Football Club	Currently being developed
	Coutts Cougars Football Club	Currently being developed
Netball	Majos Soccer Club	No
	Yamba Breakers Netball Club	Currently being developed
	Lower Clarence Netball Association	-
Cricket	Yamba Cricket Club	No
Surf Lifesaving	Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club	Currently being developed
Rugby Union	Grafton Rugby Club	Currently being developed

Assistance

What sort of assistance would most benefit the day-to-day operation of your organisation?

ORGANISATION	CLUB ADMINISTRATION	BUSINESS PLANNING	VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT/ RETENTION	MAINTENANCE	OTHERS?
Rugby League					
Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League				✓	
Grafton Ghosts Senior Rugby League Football Club					
Grafton Junior Rugby League Club		✓	✓		
Horse Sports					
Grafton Polocrosse Club			✓		✓ Recruitment of local junior members
Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group (7 user groups)	✓		✓		
Athletics					
Grafton Athletics Club			✓		
Golf					
Grafton District Golf Club					
Iluka Golf Club					
Touch Football					
Grafton Men's Touch Football Association					

ORGANISATION	CLUB ADMINISTRATION	BUSINESS PLANNING	VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT/RETENTION	MAINTENANCE	OTHERS?
Yamba Touch Association			✓	✓	
Rowing					
Grafton Rowing Club				✓	✓ Assistance to acquire/ expand facilities
Hockey					
Grafton Women's Hockey Association					✓ Advertising
Football					
Maclean Football Club			✓		
Westlawn Tigers Football Club				✓	
Lawrence Soccer Club					✓ Upgrades
Yamba Football Club	✓	✓			
Coutts Cougars Football Club				✓	
Majos Soccer Club	✓		✓	✓	
Netball					
Yamba Breakers Netball Club			✓	✓	✓
Lower Clarence Netball Association			✓	✓	
Cricket					
Yamba Cricket Club		✓	✓	✓	

ORGANISATION	CLUB ADMINISTRATION	BUSINESS PLANNING	VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT/ RETENTION	MAINTENANCE	OTHERS?
Surf Lifesaving					
Yamba Surf Lifesaving Club				✓	
Rugby Union					
Grafton Rugby Club	✓		✓	✓	

Other Comments

ORGANISATION	COMMENT
Rugby League	
Clarence Coast Magpies Junior Rugby League	Lack of maintenance for existing grounds – no budget. Slow response for call for improvements or renovation.
Grafton Junior Rugby League Club	On a whole we are fairly happy at how council now manages Frank McGurren Field. North Street field is an issue as it is in urgent need of repair.
Horse Sports	
Far North Coast Branch of the Australian Stock Horse Society	We have been using Hawthorne Park annually since 1995 and still have issues with the preparation of the grounds e.g. mowing areas stipulated on booking form. Pest control which should be carried out prior to use by any equine users each year. Low standard of power which trips out when overloaded every year.
Hawthorne Park Equestrian Users Group	Hawthorne Park Equestrian users spend considerable amounts of funds raised on increasing, developing and maintenance of Hawthorne Park facilities, yet users also pay fairly high fees for 'field' usage, although recent fee charges were seen to be more reasonable. Our clubs have considerable difficulty getting replies from Council in response to letters and requests made especially on maintenance and change of park name.
Hockey	

ORGANISATION	COMMENT
Grafton Women's Hockey	We are always nominating to Hockey NSW to hold all aged State Championships and would appreciate more financial assistance from Council for sponsorship when we do hold them.
Football	
Lawrence Soccer Club	The cost of registration for junior football (soccer) compared to other codes) presents a serious imbalance in regard to retaining players. Local football clubs would benefit from Council and other peak sporting bodies, associated with the sport, providing support to reductions in registration fees to encourage young people to participate.
Coutts Cougars Football Club	We live in a growth area. We envisage a good deal of growth in the next 2 – 5 years.
Majos Soccer Club	Proposed amalgamation of three soccer clubs that use Rushforth Park is an issue for clubs. Can a consultant be appointed to assist soccer clubs at Rushforth Park to move towards building a better future for soccer in Grafton.
Cricket	
Yamba Cricket	We just need to keep up the communication between Council and the sporting bodies so things can run smoothly.
Surf Lifesaving	
Yamba Surf Lifesaving	The club has been seeking approval for some years to build a suitable storage building at Turners Beach. If McDonalds come to Yamba we will lose our current boat storage area.

APPENDIX TWO STATE SPORTING ORGANISATION FEEDBACK

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
Athletics NSW	Experiencing growth in regions that have direct access to a synthetic running track.	Increasing need/ expectation for clubs, schools to have access to synthetic track.	Athletics NSW support multi-use/ partnership arrangements for any future synthetic track development.	No Strategies which consider the future facility needs around the State.	Increase number of synthetic tracks around the State as there are currently no synthetic tracks north of Newcastle.	<p>Athletics NSW would stage a Country Championship in Clarence Valley if a synthetic track was available.</p> <p>A synthetic track event attracts increased participants as there is no risk of a “wash-out”.</p> <p>Newcastle synthetic track is booked for school carnivals 119 days per annum.</p>
Softball NSW	<p>No clubs currently in Clarence Valley region, however there had been a local competition previously.</p> <p>This competition ceased as a result of key people leaving</p>				<p>Planning within the next 5 years to establish a new competition in the Clarence Valley region.</p> <p>Would require sufficient land space for several softball diamonds which could be shared with</p>	

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
	the area and loss of equipment following major flooding in the area.				Baseball.	
Swimming NSW	<p>Experiencing growth overall, however particularly in the LTS and Adult Fitness areas.</p> <p>Participation growth is experienced until approx 13 years of age with participants returning typically in their 30's and beyond.</p>	<p>Difficulties of Councils being able to fund "post-war" designed aquatic facilities and whether future investment should be to upgrade all or focus on major regional aquatic destinations.</p> <p>Reducing access to commercially managed aquatic facilities for swim clubs.</p>	<p>Swimming NSW has established a company (Swimming NSW Aquatic) to work with local government in terms of protecting community/ club access to aquatic facilities.</p> <p>Swimming NSW Aquatic may tender for management rights at aquatic facilities in future to support achievement of this objective.</p>	Swimming NSW Strategic Plan includes the need to maintain water space for club members.		
Tennis NSW				The Tennis NSW Strategic Plan, facility development		

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
				strategic direction states "By 2015, Tennis NSW will educate and work with the state government, local government, schools, community groups and Tennis Australia to encourage that community, commercial and residential development incorporate tennis facilities. Tennis NSW will work with existing members and the community to improve and retain tennis facilities so they are appealing and welcoming environments to		

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
				everyone. Facility Development will be characterised by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A State Master Plan for Tennis Facilities • Strong advocacy to government and corporate decision makers • Sound support of members through contemporary business methods and tools • A vibrant well used Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre 		
Gymnastics NSW	Gymnastics has experienced continued growth for several years,	Many Gymnastic clubs around NSW are finding it difficult to locate facilities	Gymnastics is currently working in partnership with equipment supplier			There is currently one club in Clarence Valley (part of the far north coast region).

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
	<p>however suitable access to facilities impact on any potential to grow participation further.</p>	<p>which are suitable for a range of gymnastic disciplines and provide sufficient access.</p>	<p>Acromat to develop models for clubs to inform the requirements in terms of facility standards, sizes and equipment at varying scales to effectively deliver quality gymnastic outcomes for communities.</p> <p>Gymnastics NSW has agreed to make these models available to the study once completed in late-September 2010.</p>			<p>The growth of this club is impacted by unsuitable standard of and access to its facility.</p> <p>There are 2 Gymnastic clubs in Coffs Harbour.</p> <p>The facility model for Hunter Valley Gymnastics is the benchmark for multi-use precincts with over 2,000 gymnastic members at this facility.</p> <p>Council owned facilities are preferred due to the inability of gymnastic clubs to fund their own major capital development needs and based on the improved ability for partnership opportunities to assist to grow participation further.</p> <p>Ideally access to permanent activity areas are preferred as this</p>

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
						reduces the impact on volunteer resources and pro-longs the life of equipment (generated through not having to move equipment on/ off activity area which requires labour and damages the equipment).
Basketball NSW	Growth in Grafton area, however further growth restricted by lack of sufficient access to courts.	Across NSW there is a shortage of suitable access to indoor courts. Despite the introduction of several single court school facilities as part of BER, gaining access from schools is difficult and managing single court competitions is labour intensive.	Establishing an alliance with Facility Design Group Architects (Stephen Johannson) to provide advice to government on effective design of multi-use indoor court facilities. There is an immediate need for increased access to indoor courts in the Clarence Valley region.			Grafton Basketball uses Council's 3-court facility, however there is insufficient access to suitable grow the junior competitions. Currently U16's are having to play in senior competitions due to the lack of court access which affects the development of players. Grafton Basketball has recently been restructured to assist existing volunteers and to increase

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
			<p>It is important that government consider the need for quality equipment and fit-out for new multi-use facilities.</p>			<p>the professionalism of the organisation.</p> <p>There are currently no Basketball NSW sanctioned competitions in the Clarence Valley outside of Grafton.</p>
Golf NSW	<p>Stable participation membership across NSW.</p>	<p>Minimal maintenance support from all forms of government for golf courses situated on crown land.</p> <p>The community's willingness to pay in regional locations is less than city locations which affects the viability of regional golf courses.</p> <p>Small duration of lease terms and</p>	<p>There is no pressure on access to Clarence Valley golf courses and no immediate need for additional golf facilities.</p>	<p>Recent amalgamation between State Men and Women Golf Associations was undertaken which requires further efforts to implement consistent management approaches across the State.</p> <p>There is no current state-wide facility strategy for golf in NSW whilst the post-amalgamation processes are being</p>		<p>Yamba golf courses have a transient participation base as a holiday destination, whilst the remainder of Clarence Valley courses tend to have a more permanent player base.</p> <p>The quality presentation of a golf course directly affects its membership and participation strength.</p> <p>There may be opportunities for shared facilities/ equipment between golf clubs and other sporting organisations (i.e. shared</p>

State Sporting Organisation	Participation Trends	Trends/ Issues	Infrastructure Plans	State Strategies	5 Year Priorities	Other
		<p>high rental costs are affecting the ability of golf clubs to seek finance and remain viable.</p> <p>The relationship between local golf clubs and Council is critical to support a partnership approach to maintenance, costs etc.</p>		<p>undertaken.</p> <p>392 golf course in NSW.</p>		<p>mowing equipment).</p>
Water Polo NSW	Slight reduction in membership across the State in past 18 months due to economic climate.	Generally regional clubs have better access to community pools than those in city locations.		Support to established regional associations/ clubs from Water Polo NSW include discounted affiliation fees and access to the Development Officer.		<p>No water polo club affiliated with Water Polo NSW in Clarence Valley over past 12 years.</p> <p>Competitions in Kempsey and Coffs Harbour have ceased.</p>

APPENDIX THREE FACILITY INVENTORY

Please refer to separate Inventory Report