

FISHER PARK

Plan of Management

Grafton City Council

**Adopted by Council
28 August 2000**

**Prepared by Sustainable Futures
in conjunction with Grafton City Council**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of this Plan

The title of this Plan is Fisher Park Plan of Management 2000. It is a specific plan relating to the significant sportsground and cultural heritage area known as Fisher Park. The land is bounded by the Grafton Showgrounds and Prince, Oliver and Villiers Streets. Precise details of the location, area and community lands category of the land are listed in Table 1. Refer Location Map 1. Reference should be made to Council's Land Register for a full identification of the parcels of land.

Table 1 – Location and Category of Land in Fisher Park

Land Register No.	Property No.	Land Description	Area	Ownership	Category
68	765.430	R540038	8.2445	GCC	Sportsground
68	765.430	R540042	0.7032	Crown	Sportsground/ Area of Cultural Significance

1.2 Background

Under the Local Government Act, 1993, Councils are required to develop and implement plans of management for all community land adopted by each Council. The plans need to identify:

- The category of land;
- The objectives and performance targets of the plan;
- The means by which Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and targets; and
- The manner in which Council proposes to assess its performance.

Under the Act, a Plan of Management is required prior to implementation of a change of use on community land. This is so that the needs of all users and the broader community are taken into account in all decision-making about these lands. In relation to Fisher Park, Council is currently considering a proposal to develop a second synthetic hockey field in Lower Fisher Park. The location of this facility may affect a number of users of this area, particularly in the light of the specialised nature of the facility, the limited space available, and the importance of the Park for many users.

The Plan of Management will provide a decision-making framework that takes into account all users of Fisher Park facilities and the wider community, and assist Council in managing Fisher Park in an efficient and effective manner.



1.3 Aim of the Plan

The aim of this plan is to provide a management direction and framework for Fisher Park that:

- Provides grounds and facilities to meet the sporting and passive recreation needs of the City's residents and sporting associations;
- encourages optimum usage of the sporting facilities by permitting a range of compatible uses;
- allows for continual upgrading of the ground's sporting facilities;
- maintains the sporting facilities at a high level without incurring unreasonable burdens on public finances;
- provides for partial cost recovery from user groups, encourages users to contribute to the upgrading of specific infrastructure, and provides for user groups to obtain income from sporting activities to offset the costs of the sport;
- considers the impact of development and use of the ground on adjoining and nearby residents; and
- meets the principles and objectives of Council's Corporate Management Plan and draft strategic management planning framework for community lands outlined in the following sections 1.5 and 1.6.

1.4 Management Principles

These principles are adopted to guide Council decision making in relation to the management of Fisher Park, and reflect Council's future direction for management of community lands.

- **Enhancing Lifestyle**

The Plan of Management endeavours to reflect Council's Corporate Plan mission to enhance the lifestyle and economic opportunities of the City, and specific goal to develop a balanced range of recreational, cultural and community services and facilities throughout the City in co-operation with local people, community organisations and State and Federal Government Authorities.

- **Sustainability Principles**

In line with Council's general aims to encourage ecologically sustainable development (ESD), the management of community lands will also reflect the philosophy and principles of sustainability. In particular, community lands will be managed in a way that promotes quality of lifestyle, protects and restores environmental values, and provides for benefits, costs and responsibilities to be shared equitably by the community.

- **Community Involvement**

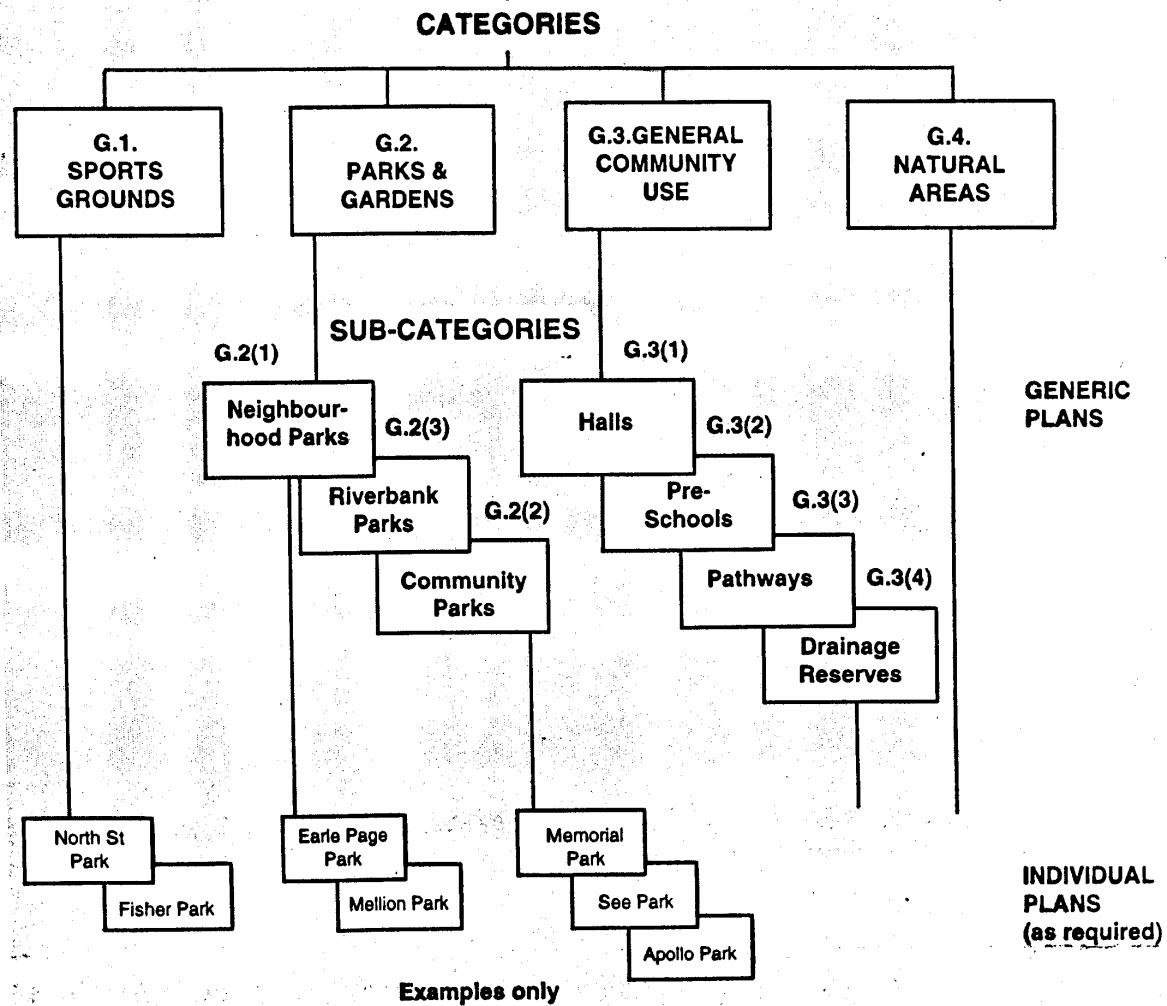
Council prioritises the active and meaningful involvement of the community in the development and implementation of its Plans of Management. Accordingly, Council has sought the initial participation of users and affected parties in the preliminary stages of this Plan. The results of this process are held on Council files relating to this Plan of Management. Opportunity is also provided for community comment on the Draft Plan prior to its formal consideration by Council. The Plan of Management may then be amended based on this input prior to the formal process of

public exhibition and submission period. Ongoing community involvement is also promoted through regular review of implementation of the Plan, based on feedback received by users and the general public.

1.5 Strategic Framework

Using the draft strategic framework developed for Council in December 1998, the Management Plan for Fisher Park is based on the following structure of management plans for community land within the City of Grafton.

Table 2 – Structure of Management Plans



1.6 Council's Corporate Goals

Council's Corporate Plan 2000-2003 is a statement of its intended direction across the whole range of its functions for the next three years, and provides a general context within which the more specific plans of management are prepared.

Vision: To promote Grafton's position as a major regional centre

Mission: To enhance the lifestyle of the City and encourage economic development.

Goal (Recreational, Cultural and Community Services):

To develop adequate, equitable and appropriate recreational, cultural and community services and facilities for the whole community in consultation and co-operation with local people, community organisations, Clarence Valley Councils and State and Federal Government Authorities.

Objectives: Upgrade active sporting areas and passive recreation areas.

Means: Review maintenance plans for existing facilities

Identify areas for upgrading

Carry out annual safety checks on all playground equipment

Provide financial support to sporting organisations that conduct events that attract visitors to the city.

2 EXISTING SITUATION

2.1 Values, Function and Features

The key values of Fisher Park include:

- provision of facilities for structured sporting recreation, training and competitions;
- focus for community development and interaction;
- the cultural heritage significance of the lagoon historical site;
- provision of leisure, social interaction and childhood development opportunities;
- youth facilities and a safe space for young people to gather and interact;
- economic benefits of money spent by sporting participants and on facilities;
- provision of green space and passive recreation opportunities in an urban area;
- drainage, ponding and other utility functions.

The major features of Fisher Park, as currently developed, are shown on Map 1.

Plate 1 - Fisher Park provides for a range of sports and other community values



2.2 Current Management Practice

Fisher Park is currently managed by the City of Grafton, and maintained and improved in conjunction with users. Precise management arrangements vary with each user group and the facilities involved.

The majority of clubs are guided by informal arrangements with both the Council and other user groups, which define maintenance arrangements and outline usage times to maximise convenience and avoid conflicts with other users. This informal structure was overwhelmingly seen by users as satisfactory or highly satisfactory.

Council has also issued two formalised leases for portions of Fisher Park. There is a current twenty year lease issued to the Grafton City Tennis Club Ltd in 1990 over the formalised tennis facilities, which provides exclusive use of the complex to the Club for an annual fee and responsibility for development, maintenance and use costs. There is also a ten year lease over the synthetic hockey field and adjacent brick amenities building, issued to the Grafton Synthetic Hockey Field Committee Incorporated in 1991 for construction of a synthetic hockey field. Again the lessee is responsible for rent, and construction, maintenance and usage costs in exchange for quiet enjoyment of the site.

2.3 Key Issues

The following issues outline the general factors and influences that define the context for the Fisher Park Plan of Management. The more specific issues are discussed under the relevant precinct heading.

2.3.1 Status of Fisher Park

Fisher Park is seen by most user groups as the premier and highest quality facility of their particular sporting interest in the region. Furthermore, the Park has also historically been the home ground of several sporting groups, and the continued usage of the grounds is

Plate 2 - Heritage value of Fisher Park, historically Grafton's premier sporting venue



viewed in the context of a long-running tradition. The central location, high amenity of the grounds, clear visibility from both surrounding streets and other fields, ready accessibility and high standard of grounds and amenities are cited by all users as part of the benefits of this Park. Accordingly, most users highly prioritise their continued presence in Fisher Park as a key part of any future planning for the site.

2.3.2 Needs of User Groups

Most of the Fisher Park sporting associations have specific needs in relation to ground improvements and capital facilities, and are further seeking to develop and maintain their specific facilities at a regional or greater standard in order to accommodate tournaments and competitions, and attract outside visitors. Details of these requirements, as outlined by the user groups, are contained within background material collected in this Plan's preparation. (Available from Council).

Overall, there is a clear trend towards greater specialisation of sporting requirements, due to evolving technology and greater understanding of sporting safety standards. This has resulted in a greater push for purpose-built facilities for individual sports, and when combined with the generally expanding space requirements of most sporting associations, competing demands emerge for the limited Fisher Park area.

There is a general acceptance that user groups have an obligation to provide a level of required improvements out of their own resources, and this is clearly specified where leases are issued over facilities. However, there is also an expectation that Council has a role in capital improvements. This is also articulated within Council's corporate goals in recognition of the economic and other benefits of providing a regional sporting focus in Grafton. These responsibilities need to be seen in the context of competing demands for finite resources amongst both sporting groups and the wider community.

2.3.3 Multiple Use of Facilities

Fisher Park has a high level of multiple use of its facilities, particularly Ellem Oval and Lower Fisher Park. This allows for greater community accessibility to the Park's grounds and facilities,



and optimises usage of the Park. However, it may also generate conflict between users, particularly where space limitation means choices need to be made in the further development or improvement of some facilities. This can particularly occur where facilities need to be expanded or upgraded in order to remain regionally competitive. Some conflict also occurs between users of adjoining facilities although is often resolved informally. Most users expressed general satisfaction with the current arrangements, and generally liaised amongst groups to resolve issues involving the use of facilities.

2.3.4 Cultural History of Lagoon

The lagoon located at the end of the central access track, Plane Tree Avenue, once hosted an Aboriginal campsite beside the waterhole. Several reports by European historians in the area indicate that around the late 1800's conflict arose between the indigenous people and farmers attempting to cultivate surrounding lands, which lead to the waterhole camp being dispersed. However, the lagoon retains its cultural heritage value to the local Aboriginal people, and is associated with stories as to its presence and significance. There is also evidence of Aboriginal occupation of the area, in a mature tree on the lagoon.

Plate 4 - Aboriginal tribes formerly camped adjacent to the lagoon



The lagoon is largely cleared up to the water's edge, contains weeds and litter, and presents a safety hazard to children. However in recent years its cultural significance has been recognised through tree planting and Reconciliation events at the lagoon. Discussions with local Aboriginal representatives have highlighted the significance of the site and the importance of improving its amenity.

Plate 5 - Safety issues raised include inadequate fencing and structures



2.3.5 Local Amenity

Fisher Park is surrounded by residential areas, and there is potential for detrimental impact on local residential amenity due to the high level of usage of the site. This impact may include noise (including spectators, participants, announcers and special events), lighting, traffic and car parking, extended hours of usage, and vandalism. However there are also positive impacts of Fisher Park on local amenity, including increased opportunity for informal and formal recreation, local greenspace, attractive viewscales, and improved drainage.

2.3.6 Passive Recreation and other Functions

Fisher Park provides a range of functions over and above formalised recreation opportunities, and these include its use as a local park by the local community, attractive pedestrian access to surrounding areas, social enjoyment of some facilities, youth gathering and meeting space, and landscape values.

Fisher Park also provides a drainage function, and ponding area during flood events. These various roles all need to be recognised and enhanced in future management of the Park due to their broader community benefits. Whilst most of these are generally compatible with the active recreation functions of a sportsground, in instances some are not, and in seeking to meet the differing functions of Fisher Park, Council may need to make trade-offs where conflicts between uses arise.

Plate 6 - The values of Fisher Park to the community include passive recreation



Plate 7 - Fisher Park provides space for young people to gather and interact



2.3.7 Costs, Charges and Responsibility for Facilities

Maintenance of Fisher Park facilities is generally undertaken by Council, and arrangements are based on sporting requirements, safety issues and Council's financial capacity to commit resources in view of other demands. The fees charged by Council reflect these costs, although they also need to take account of the ability of users to pay and the wider advantages of providing the facilities to the community. Where specifically provided for in leases or licensing arrangements, or otherwise informally agreed, clubs and associations may also undertake their own maintenance and improvements.

Major facilities are generally constructed by user groups, with some assistance by Council where considered appropriate in accordance with Council's corporate planning. All facilities and improvements belong to the Council, for the enjoyment of the whole community, unless specified otherwise in lease agreements whereby insurance and other matters need to be covered by the relevant lessee.

2.4 Management Objectives

2.4.1 Profile of Fisher Park

To maintain the high profile of Fisher Park as a premier sporting focus of Grafton and the surrounding region, both as a general facility and in relation to specific sporting interests.

2.4.2 Long Term Flexibility

To ensure that options for the future use and development of Fisher Park are kept open, and that compatible relationships between all users of the park are promoted.

2.4.3 Regional Standard of Facilities

To enable the continued upgrading of existing and future facilities, to a regional standard and above.

2.4.4 Aesthetic and other Values

To recognise the important aesthetic values and passive recreational functions of Fisher Park, and preserve these in the future planning of the grounds.

2.4.5 Cultural Heritage Significance

To protect and enhance the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the lagoon and surrounds, and the more general historical value of the park to both European and Aboriginal communities.

2.4.6 Cost Viability

To ensure that Fisher Park is managed and developed so as to continue to provide affordable high standard facilities to the Grafton sporting community, whilst limiting the overall cost on the Council.

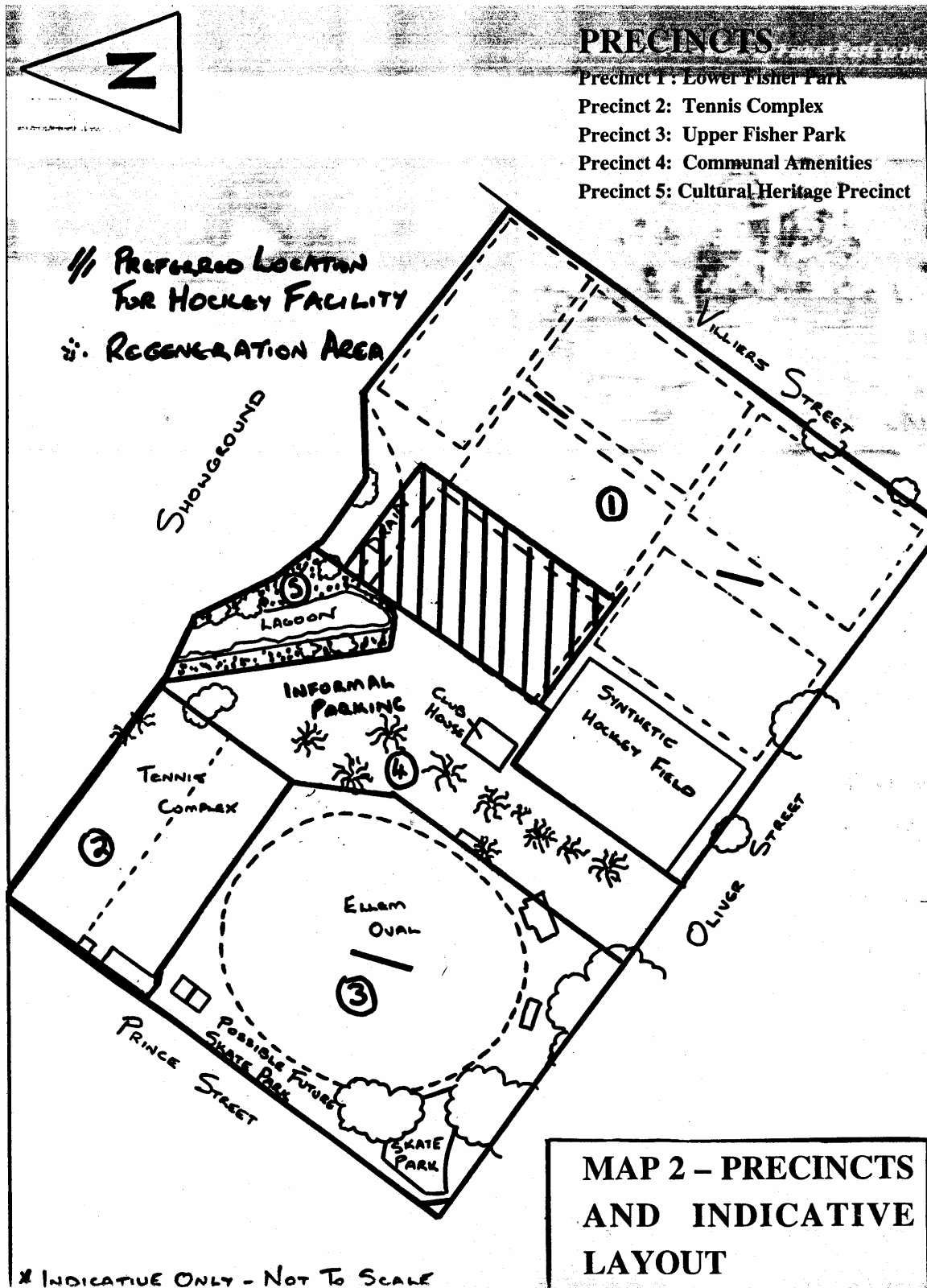
2.5 Management Direction

To provide for the orderly planning and management of Fisher Park grounds and facilities, the Park is divided into a series of precincts based on their usage and management requirements.

These are listed as:

- Precinct 1 – Lower Fisher Park
- Precinct 2 – Tennis Facilities
- Precinct 3 – Upper Fisher Park
- Precinct 4 – Communal Amenities
- Precinct 5 – Lagoon Cultural Heritage Area.

Refer Map 2 for the location of these precincts. The issues, objectives and management guidelines for each precinct are outlined in the following section. General management requirements and considerations relevant to the overall park are outlined in Section 4.



3. MANAGEMENT PRECINCTS

3.1 Lower Fisher Park

Description:

Lower Fisher Park (Precinct 1) consists of five grass sporting fields marked out for hockey and touch football and overlaid with one full size and one junior cricket oval, as well as one synthetic hockey field. All fields are quality sports surfaces, developed to a high standard and maintained in good condition by the Council in conjunction with user groups.

Key Issues:

- The Lower Fisher Park precinct hosts the premier regional sporting facilities of the hockey, cricket and touch football clubs;
- The grounds also enjoy a high level of use by a range of users for tournaments, training, school sporting and informal activities;
- Hockey facilities include a high level synthetic surface, however two such surfaces are required to retain its regional status and attract future competitions. The preferred location shown in Map 2 is supported by many users, although concern is raised, as indicated on Council file.
- Cricket facilities include the highest quality fielding surface in the region, as well as three fields within the same complex, and has traditionally been the Club’s home ground;
- Most user groups participation rates of Lower Fisher Park are expanding, sporting needs specialising, and space is limited;
- There is an overwhelming need to retain the multi-use and passive recreation functions of the precinct;
- All users value the open vistas, accessibility and high amenity of Lower Fisher Park, and its link to the overall Fisher Park complex;
- A high level of satisfaction is expressed by user groups on the management and maintenance of the sports grounds, and use arrangements

Management Guidelines:

Objective	Policy	Action	Target	Measure
1. To retain Lower Fisher Park as the premier regional facility for both hockey and cricket, whilst providing high level facilities for touch football, and other complementary local sporting interests.	1.1 Implement the progressive development and upgrading of Lower Fisher Park, in accordance with Map 2 in conjunction with the sporting groups.	1.1 Promote construction of an additional synthetic hockey field in Lower Fisher Park; in the preferred location. 1.2 Assist the Synthetic Hockey Association to develop facilities and meet the costs of location by assistance with direct funding, in-kind support or	1.1 Provision of second synthetic hockey turf of regional or higher standard in Fisher Park; 1.2 Retention of at least one regional standard cricket pitch, and a junior cricket field;	1.1 Feedback from Cricket, Hockey, Touch Football and other user groups; 1.2 No movement of sporting groups to other facilities on the basis of inadequate facilities or space;

		liaison with grant agencies 1.3 Upgrading of grass sporting grounds and cricket fields as required to maintain regional facilities.		1.3 Number of events per annum and no. of participants.
2. To continue the upgrading of Lower Fisher Park facilities to regional standard and above.	2.1 Implement upgrading of Lower Fisher Park facilities in accordance with Map 2.	2.1 Allow for the progressive maintenance and upgrading of grass sporting grounds and cricket fields as required	2.1 Continued recognition of Lower Fisher Park as the leading grounds and facilities in the region, in terms of quality and access.	2.1 Continued use of facilities by local groups for regional and state tournaments; 2.2 Satisfaction of users via regular survey
3. To retain the multiple use and passive recreation functions of Lower Fisher Park.	3.1 Ensure improvements retain open vistas, public access across the Park and general access to users.	3.1 Consult with all users where changes to facilities may affect general amenity or usage of grounds	3.1 No overall loss of sporting grounds for access by all user groups and community	3.1 Continued use of facilities by schools and other local users. 3.2 Public feedback by general community and nearby residents

3.2 Tennis Facilities

Description:

The Tennis Facilities (Precinct 2) consists of 15 courts, practice board, a clubhouse and ancillary buildings. These facilities are regularly maintained to remain in medium to good condition.

Key Issues:

- The Tennis Club considers Fisher Park facilities to be the largest and best designed facilities on the North Coast;
- The Club is a relatively small and stable user of Fisher Park, with limited funding restricting ongoing improvements;
- Tennis Club needs include ongoing maintenance and upgrading of courts/fences, clubhouse, additional seating and shelter for spectators, and better lighting at some stage in the future;
- Maintenance is predominantly undertaken by the Club, with some assistance from Council with specific tasks;
- A small level of conflict exists with adjoining users, which is largely resolved by the staggered timing of events.

Management Guidelines:

Objective	Policy	Action	Target	Measure
4. To retain the Fisher Park tennis facilities as high standard, well maintained regional level facilities.	4.1 Effectively coordinate development and maintenance requirements between Tennis Club and Council. 4.2 Assist with tennis club to carry out improvements where needed by assisting with funding or liaising with grant agencies	4.1 Council continue to liaise regularly with the club to identify future requirements and provide timely assistance as budgets allow. 4.2 Council to meet periodically with the Tennis Club to adopt and implement annual program	4.1 Assistance with the provision of seating and shade around the courts as a short term priority 4.2 General upkeep of tennis facilities to a reasonable standard, an accordance with an agreed annual program.	4.1 Feedback from Grafton Tennis Association 4.2 Annual adoption of joint agreed maintenance programs, with Club. 4.3 Adequate resources available for maintenance to implement the agreed management program
5. Maximise use of facilities within existing space constraints.	5.1 Encourage community-based design and management of facilities/improvements via the Tennis Club. 5.2 Promote upgrading of communal facilities for shared use by the Club.	5.1 The existing management direction is endorsed. 5.2 Multi-use clubhouse facilities be provided in the communal precinct of Fisher Park	5.1 Retention of existing standard and size of tennis facilities 5.2 Availability of multi-use clubhouse facilities in communal area, within the medium term.	5.1 Feedback from Grafton Tennis Association through regular survey.

3.3 Upper Fisher Park

Description:

Upper Fisher Park (Precinct 3) consists of Ellem Oval, practice nets and ancillary facilities to the oval, a small clubhouse, ablution facilities, play equipment and a concrete skate park set into the south western bank of the oval.

Key Issues:

- Upper Fisher Park is highly valued by user groups for its high visibility and safety, amenity, mature shade trees, accessibility to town and transport and standard of existing sporting facilities;
- The precinct boasts a long history of being the premier sporting facility within the City, and its historic function as the key multi-use sporting venue is also reflected in remaining historic elements such as the gates, mature trees and contouring around the oval
- Ellem Oval is predominantly used by the Australian Rules Football, Cricket and Mixed Touch clubs, soccer and occasional hockey use, and is valued as a small but high quality ground;
- The oval also provides for a range of other sporting activities, training, club competitions and school sports days.
- No users of Ellem Oval envisage major expansion or improvement of facilities, but seek minor upgrading to ablution/change facilities;
- The south western corner of the precinct hosts a formalised skate park, which is a well utilised facility attracting youth for much of the day and into the evening; and also acts as a venue for outdoor youth events including formalised concerts and competitions;
- The Skate Park Committee is planning the staged expansion of the skate park along Prince Street and increased youth concerts.
- Concern has been raised by some users of the Park in relation to noise and incidents of graffiti, vandalism and anti-social behaviour linked to the popularity of the skate park facilities to young people;
- All user groups of Upper Fisher Park express very high satisfaction with the management and maintenance of the grounds;
- Some drainage problems on Ellem Oval cause closure of the ground in wet periods, causing problems to Australian Rules Football users.
- A small level of conflict exists with Ellem Oval and adjoining users due to balls being displaced, however this may be readily addressed by staggering of timing and temporary screen fences for large simultaneous events.

Management Guidelines

Objective	Policy	Action	Target	Measure
6. To maintain Ellem Oval as a high quality multi-use oval available to a range of users, supporting the sporting values of Lower Fisher Park precinct.	<p>6.1 Promote the continued use of Ellem Oval for cricket, Australian Rules, and other sports training and events.</p> <p>6.2 Co-ordinate the timing of games, training and tournaments so as to reduce conflict between users of the precinct.</p> <p>6.3 Ensure appropriate safety measures are undertaken where user conflicts may arise.</p>	<p>6.1 Council continue to manage and maintain the Upper Fisher Park precinct as per existing practice.</p> <p>6.2 Implement an agreed program of regular clean up of graffiti and vandalism across the precinct and adjacent areas, with user input.</p>	<p>6.1 The Ellem Oval facilities are retained to their current standard and level of usage.</p> <p>6.2 Progressive development of communal facilities in Precinct 4 supporting the efficient use of Upper Fisher Park</p>	<p>6.1 Feedback from user groups and youth representatives, including regular Council survey</p> <p>6.2 No incidents reported of accidents or safety breaches as a result of conflicts between adjacent facility users</p>
7. To provide for youth facilities in a manner that does not compromise the enjoyment of Fisher Park by other users.	<p>7.1 Provide for upgrading of the skate park facilities to accommodate identified youth needs.</p> <p>7.2 Take measures to minimise the impact of youth activities on the adjoining areas and wider community.</p>	<p>7.1 Consider the careful expansion of skate park facilities as per developed plans, in conjunction with the Skate Park Committee, youth, adjacent residents and Upper Fisher Park users.</p> <p>7.2 Liaise with the Skate Park Committee and users to implement lighting and anti-vandalism measures</p> <p>7.3 Monitor events and consult youth service providers to develop complimentary youth event facilities adjoining the skate park.</p>	<p>7.1 Progressive provision of improved Skate Park facilities in consultation with affected users and nearby residents</p> <p>7.2 Retention of open vistas through the precinct, provision of adequate lighting and selective use of security/anti-vandalism as required to improve safety and reduce damage.</p>	<p>7.1 Feedback from youth and youth service providers</p> <p>7.2 Number of youth events and concerts held in the Park.</p> <p>7.3 Reduced number of complaints from adjoining residents/sporting clubs and community</p> <p>7.4 Reduced incidents of vandalism damage through implementation of safety measures.</p>

3.4 Communal Amenities

Description:

The Communal Amenities area (Precinct 4) consists of Plane Tree Avenue, informal sealed areas for parking, and clubhouse facilities.

Key Issues:

- The precinct is an attractive passive recreation, amenities, and through access area used by active sporting groups and the public;
- Parking limitations exist when multiple sporting events are held; the informal nature of parking areas is generally adequate
- There is currently limited accessibility of the clubhouse facilities to Fisher Park user groups and limited facilities available;
- All sporting users indicated a preference for increased access to upgraded central clubhouse facilities.

Management Guidelines:

Objective	Policy	Action	Target	Measure
8. To provide for an adequate level and amenity of communal facilities, available for joint use by all Fisher Park user groups.	8.1 Retain and upgrade existing parking, road access, toilet and other amenities as required. 8.2 Permit leasing of communal facilities where all users retain beneficial use, and where the leasing arrangement provides for a higher standard of facilities	8.1 Council to consider provision of multi-use clubhouse facilities, to be accessed by all users and the wider community, by upgrading of the existing clubhouse in conjunction with interested sporting clubs. 8.2 Progressive upgrading of parking and access areas to engineering standards.	8.1 Availability of a high standard communal clubhouse facility to all Fisher Park sporting groups and the wider community. 8.2 Continued availability of all amenities and facilities within this area to all Fisher Park users.	8.1 Development plans adopted and progress made towards upgrading of the clubhouse. 8.2 Feedback from sporting clubs and other users via regular Council survey. 8.3 Number of complaints received in relation to the availability or standard of communal facilities within this precinct.
9. To retain Plane Tree Avenue as an attractive open space feature and the central focus of Fisher Park	9.1 Protect existing mature trees from encroachment by facilities or utilities. 9.2 Undertake beautification projects and additional planting/provision of recreational facilities as required.	9.1 Council shall not allow the removal of mature trees unless a safety hazard, in which instance additional planting is to be undertaken. 9.2 All future developments shall be in keeping with the character of the precinct.	9.1 Number overall loss of visual amenity in the central Fisher Park precinct.	9.1 Number of complaints received in relation to the amenity of the precinct.

3.5 Lagoon Cultural Heritage Area

Description:

The Lagoon Cultural Heritage Area (Precinct 5) consists of the predominantly fenced lagoon area and surrounds.

Key Issues:

- The lagoon precinct has widely accepted Aboriginal heritage significance, on account of past occupation and historical events;
- There are safety and amenity concerns in relation to the poor condition of structures and modified nature of the lagoon environment;
- Fencing close to the lagoon limits rehabilitation attempts to date.

Management Guidelines:

Objective	Policy	Action	Target	Measure
10. Protect and enhance the cultural heritage values of the lagoon	10.1 The lagoon will be managed for its cultural heritage values in conjunction with the local Aboriginal community. 10.2 Access to the lagoon will be limited to avoid degrading the heritage values of the site.	10.1 Council to liaise with the local Aboriginal community prior to any decisions affecting the lagoon precinct. 10.2 Council will not permit use or development of the site for formalised sporting activities, and other recreational pursuits. 10.3 Fencing of area around the lagoon prior to any development of adjoining land. 10.4 Provision of low-key signage highlighting the cultural significance of the site.	10.1 Provision of adequate relocated fencing and recognition signage as a short term priority. 10.2 No physical or visual encroachment of adjacent sporting facilities into the lagoon area 10.3 Any future modifications or improvements to the lagoon made with the express consent of the Aboriginal community	10.1 Feedback from the Ngerri Local Aboriginal Land Council, NPWS and local families.

<p>11.. Provide a safe and attractive passive recreation area respectful of cultural heritage values.</p>	<p>11.1 Undertake low-key works to ensure the safety of the lagoon area, and retain overall amenity</p>	<p>11.1 Adequate fencing of lagoon and modification or removal of boardwalk facilities to improve safety of lagoon. 11.2 Removal of existing fence on the eastern side and replacement fencing further from lagoon as agreed with the Aboriginal community on site. 11.3 Continued upkeep of the lagoon surrounds to maintain amenity of the site. 11.4 Rehabilitation behind the future fence to improve amenity and the natural functions of the lagoon.</p>	<p>11.1 Securing of the lagoon by safe, low visual-impact fencing that encompasses existing rehabilitation. 11.2 Maintenance of the lagoon as a visually attractive feature of Fisher Park</p>	<p>11.1 No complaints or reported incidences of accidents with children accessing the lagoon. 11.2 Satisfactory report by Council Engineer. 11.3 Enhanced visual amenity of lagoon and surrounds.</p>
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4. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Section 4 outlines the management guidelines and requirements that apply to the overall management of all areas of Fisher Park.

4.1 Leasing and Licensing Arrangements

4.1.1 This Plan of Management authorises Council to enter into a leasing arrangement with a specific user of any part of Fisher Park reserve, where it is considered appropriate.

4.1.2 Prior to entering into a leasing arrangement with a user, Council will publicly advertise its intention to lease the subject area, and consult with the key user groups of Fisher Park in order to obtain the views of affected parties.

4.2 Maintenance, Improvement and Development of Fisher Park

4.1.1 Council shall progressively implement this Plan of Management in accordance with the Objectives, Policies and Actions of Section 3 as funding becomes available. The Plan recognises that Council's ability to provide such works will be determined partly by other budgetary demands on the Council, which is specified through Council's Corporate Management Plan.

4.1.2 Where conflicts arise in relation to incompatible competing uses of the Park, Council's shall make a decision taking into account the aims and objectives of the Fisher Park Plan of Management and any specific management guidelines outlined by the Plan.

4.1.3 Prior approval of Council is required where a sporting association seeks to provide additional facilities or substantial improvements to an existing ground or facility. In making its determination, Council shall take into account the aims and relevant management guidelines of this Management Plan, as well as all other Plans, Council policies, and legislative requirements relevant to the proposal.

4.1.4 In making a determination on the location of a second synthetic hockey field, Council will endeavour to facilitate its construction within Fisher Park in the preferred location indicated on Map 2. Should detailed design highlight environmental, cultural, technical or undue financial constraints that, in the opinion of Council, make this option unachievable; alternative location/s should be found for any affected sports prior to a decision on location of the facility.

4.3 Action Plans

- 4.3.1 From time to time it is expected that user groups will approach Council with a proposal for action. These will be referred to Council for consideration in accordance with this Plan of Management and, if necessary, for inclusion in Council's budget considerations. Any specific action plans should be presented with a concept plan. Staging of the proposals may also be considered. Specific action plans adopted by Council will be attached to this Plan of Management and the background information will be kept with Council records.

4.4 Survey, Mapping and Inventory of Facilities

- 4.4.1 Council shall progressively undertake the comprehensive survey, mapping and inventory of Fisher Park facilities to assist in the future planning and management of Fisher Park.

4.5 Community Involvement and Review of Plan

- 4.5.1 Council will ensure practical and ready access to the Fisher Park Management Plan, any amendments, and relevant supporting information in a manner which assists community involvement in and understanding of management processes.
- 4.5.2 Council shall undertake ongoing liaison with user groups and encourage feedback into the implementation of the Management Plan.
- 4.5.3 Council shall be involved in ongoing review and liaison with user groups and the community as issues arise regarding the implementation of the Plan of Management. Where appropriate, the outcomes of this ongoing review and liaison shall be considered by Council in the preparation of its annual budget.
- 4.5.4 Council shall comprehensively review the management plan, including all goals, objectives and strategies, within a period of not less than five years from its adoption.