Central Highlands Regional Council

open space and recreation plan

March 2014
Central Highlands Regional Council

Open Space and Recreation Plan

March 2014

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Contents

1.0 Introduction and Purpose 4
1.1 Introduction 4
1.2 Purpose 4

2.0 Process 5
2.1 Methodology Summary 5
2.2 Document Structure 5
2.3 Forward Program 5
2.4 Literature Review 6

3.0 Planning Context 7

4.0 Industry Analysis 8

5.0 Council-wide Considerations 12
5.1 Background Research 12
5.2 Consultation 16
5.3 Active Transport 27

6.0 Open Space Provision 29
6.1 Open Space Categories 29
6.2 Open Space Provision Tiers 31
6.3 Embellishments by Hierarchy of Towns 36
6.4 Network Distribution 38
6.5 Guidelines for the Co-location of Sports 40
6.6 Our Vision for Open Space 42
6.7 Guiding Principles 43
6.8 Open Space Types 44

7.0 Open Space Analysis 71
7.1 Open Space Gap Analysis 71
7.2 Open Space Distribution 73

8.0 Place-based Considerations 74
8.1 Arcadia Valley 74
8.2 Bauhinia 76
8.3 Blackwater 78
8.4 Bluff 82
8.5 Capella 84
8.6 Comet 88
8.7 Dingo 90
8.8 Duaringa 92
8.9 Emerald 94
8.10 Grawa 100
8.11 Rolleston 104
8.12 Springsure 108
8.13 Tieri 110

9.0 Open Space Strategic Framework 114
9.1 Planning Scheme Matters 114
9.2 Priority Infrastructure Plan Matters 114
9.3 Demand Generation 115
9.4 Other Planning Matters 115

10.0 Action Plan 116

Appendix 126
Sporting Clubs Consulted 126

Please note:
- first round consultation was undertaken in early 2012 and data (such as memberships) may have subsequently altered
- given more than a year has passed between the first and final drafts, a number of projects noted in the original action plan and future directions have been addressed (e.g. court surface upgrade at the Emerald PCYC; removal of asbestos from derelict buildings at the Rolleston sports oval; master plans for Hunter Street Sporting Complex, Equestrian Precinct and Youth Space and Park in Blackwater)
- given the length of time involved in developing the Plan, a review should be undertaken within two years of adoption of this Plan prior to the preparation of that year's budget
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

The Central Highlands Regional Council sought to undertake an Open Space and Recreation Plan to set the direction for open space, sport and recreation provision for the Region to 2031. This work has been triggered by the need to update the Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan (2007) as well as to provide a strategic document that incorporates the former Shire Councils of Bauhinia, Duaringa, Peak Downs and Emerald.

Good parks are the result of considerable planning, and applying the same planning regime for one area to another does not necessarily lead to a good open space network. Understanding the local influences (climate, geography, social, and political capacity) is vital. Therefore, this Open Space and Recreation Plan is based on foundations that consider and embrace these matters. It has been developed giving thought to what we know about the Region’s open space, our understanding of local people’s preferences to different open space types and functions, Council’s (and the community’s) capacity to deliver the infrastructure and the State’s preferences and guidelines for planning for open space.

Additionally, the Plan sought to provide clear direction (aligning with State Government policy) regarding provision of active transport opportunities by articulating a legible network. Further, this network is developed using a defined set of design standards.

1.2 Purpose

The primary aim of the project is to evaluate the existing Council-managed open space, sport and recreation facilities and active transport opportunities across the towns of the Central Highlands Regional Council area. This assessment has lead to the development of a strategic implementation plan to deliver infrastructure, program and service improvements at both a regional and place-based level.

The Plan will not only collate existing information, but will move to develop one united vision and system for all open space and recreation planning and development. It is also an opportune time to build on existing planning frameworks and to reassess the open space supply prior to making recommendations for future needs.

Key outcomes that are important to this Plan’s development include:

- informing corporate planning tools including the Corporate Plan, Central Highlands Community Plan 2022, and Central Highlands Regional Council proposed Planning Scheme (including the Priority Infrastructure Plan)
- informing operational planning through the development of a clear action plan
- providing a basis for Council decision-making with regard to resource allocation.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is important not only for Central Highlands Regional Council’s planning purposes but also for the community and developers. The Plan will consolidate existing information as well as seek to rectify any gaps in planning provisions. It will begin to take a more holistic planning view of open space, sport and recreation facilities and active transport opportunities, whilst also being cognizant of regional and State planning frameworks.

The scope of the Plan includes all Council-controlled land and facilities. As such, an important part of the Region’s open space that sits outside of this Plan is the State-owned network of National Parks. There are seven National Parks within the Central Highlands Region; Blackdown Tableland, Carnarvon, Minerva Hills, Nuga Nuga, Palmgrove, Snake Range and Taunton. These parks also contribute to the Region’s recreation opportunities.
2.0 process

2.1 Methodology Summary
The methodology used in the development of the Plan has been broken down into six stages. This shows the sequential development of the strategic framework and detailed analysis of open space across the Central Highlands Region. The information gathered and generated throughout this process provides the various outputs required for the Plan. The stages are:

- Stage 1: Background Research
  - literature review
  - demographic profile and population trends
  - open space trends, issues and opportunities review
- Stage 2: Open Space and Facilities Audit
  - site inspection and facility audit
  - present findings of open space audit
  - active transport audit
  - development of a classification and hierarchy framework
- Stage 3: Consultation
  - Mayor and Councillor workshop
  - Council Officers
  - sport and recreation workshops
  - community workshops and drop-in sessions
  - sporting group survey
  - community household survey
  - school principal survey
  - sport and recreation provider interviews
  - active adult discussions
  - school classroom discussions
  - key stakeholder interviews
- Stage 4: Analysis and Assessment
  - sport and recreation data analysis
  - development of desired standards of service
  - supply and demand assessment
  - benchmarking
  - Council management, maintenance and policy direction
  - facility management
  - prioritisation and implementation plan
- Stage 5: Draft Plan Preparation and Presentation
  - preparation of the draft Plan
  - Technical Working Group review
- Stage 6: Finalisation
  - presentation of Plan to Council and finalisation.

2.2 Document Structure
The Plan has been prepared at two levels: at a regional Central Highlands level, and at individual town levels (based on Council’s identified thirteen ‘places’). The Plan is designed to be easily used by both Council and the community. It is a pull-out style document to allow for relevant sections to be read and referenced easily.

The place-based considerations have been divided according to the Central Highlands Community Plan 2022:

- Arcadia Valley
- Bauhinia
- Blackwater
- Bluff
- Capella
- Comet
- Dingo
- Duaringa
- Emerald
- Gemfields (Anakie, Rubyvale, Sapphire and Gemfields Willows)
- Rolleston
- Springsure
- Tieri.

The Plan addresses Central Highlands Region-wide considerations, with future directions provided for all thirteen places.

The thirteen places are further broken down into four tiers, in order to appropriately plan for the provision of future open space in line with the scale, population and needs of each tier of the community.

2.3 Forward Program
The Plan is a dynamic document that needs to be regularly revised and updated to reflect changes to our recreational assets and groups operating in our communities. To achieve this, it is recommended that given the length of time involved in developing the Plan, a review should be undertaken within two years of adoption.

It is also highlighted that this Plan has focussed on Council towns and should be considered the first phase of this forward planning exercise. It is recommended that once this Plan is integrated into Council’s processes that it extends this approach as phase 2 to undertake comprehensive open space and recreation planning for the rural based localities throughout the Council area.
2.4 Literature Review

A range of the most relevant literature has been reviewed as part of the development of this Plan. The documents have been divided between land use planning literature and open space planning literature. Each document has been categorised based on its most applicable sphere of influence: State or Regional, local government area or a specific area within the Central Highlands Region.

2.4.1 Land Use Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Regional</th>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Area/Location Specific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Queensland Regional Growth Management Framework 2002</td>
<td>Bauhinia Shire Planning Scheme</td>
<td>Capricorn Municipal Development Guidelines 2007 (as amended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Planning Act 2009</td>
<td>Central Highlands Regional Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towards Q:2: Tomorrows Queensland 2008</td>
<td>Community Survey Report 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duaringa Shire Planning Scheme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emerald Shire Planning Scheme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land Use Planning Discussion Paper 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peak Downs Shire Council Planning Scheme</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.4.2 Open Space Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Regional</th>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Area/Location Specific</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shaping Up - A guide to the better practice and integration of transport, land use and urban design techniques</td>
<td>Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan 1997</td>
<td>Blackwater Sport and Recreation Facilities Master Plan 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blackwater Urban Development Area Open Space and Townscape Strategy Report 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>McIndoe Park Football Facility Master Plan 2012</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plan of Management - Rifle Range Refuge 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rubyvale Streetscape Master Plan 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Springsure Showgrounds Master Plan 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zamia Parklands (Springsure) Landscape Concept Plan 2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.0 planning context

3.1 Open Space Strategic Planning Framework

This Open Space and Recreation Plan provides the strategic direction for open space, sport and recreation within the Central Highlands Region. The document is informed by the Central Highlands Community Plan 2022, and will inform the proposed Central Highlands Planning Scheme and associated policies, and operational planning.

The Strategic Framework component of the proposed Central Highlands Planning Scheme has been directly informed by this Plan.

A Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) forms part of a Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (SPA) compliant planning scheme. The PIP lists what infrastructure Council will provide in the future and includes an analysis and assessment of a variety of infrastructure networks, including public parks. PIPs are only concerned with ‘trunk infrastructure’ which service a large area as compared to a smaller local catchment. Trunk infrastructure parks are limited to active recreation and sports parks. In the Central Highlands Region, these types of parks form 8.2% of the total open space network.

This Plan will inform future planning for trunk infrastructure parks. It has been developed in line with the requirements of SPA, considers the impacts of the Queensland Planning Provisions version 3 (QPPP) and the Statutory Guideline 01/11 Priority Infrastructure Plans and Infrastructure Charges Schedule.

In addition to trunk infrastructure, this Plan also considers and provides recommendations for a range of operational as well as non-trunk open space-related projects. For example, the Plan outlines key active transport requirements for each of the fourteen places assessed.

This Plan will provide the blueprint for Council, the community and funding agencies to undertake all open space, sport and recreation-related projects for the next ten years. The Plan will directly inform Council’s annual financial planning, including capital works program and operational budgets.

The Plan provides Council with a program of master plans and feasibility studies required for the Region's facilities. Essentially, the Plan forms a guiding work program for Council's sport and recreation staff.
4.0 industry analysis

This analysis highlights both the range of benefits that are derived from open space, sport and recreation and relevant participation trends. Where possible, information has been presented at both higher-level (international, national or state) and a more local level.

4.1 Benefits of Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Open space, sport and recreation can improve an individual’s physical and psychological health; strengthen communities and the economy; and make neighbourhoods more attractive places to live, work and visit.

This section outlines the positive benefits that open space can have on the physical, mental and social health of individuals and the community. Additionally, it highlights a number of the key environmental and economic benefits.

4.1.1 Benefits to personal health
- Improved health is available to individuals through participation in recreation, sport and physical activity. A comprehensive review identified that quality access to open space (specifically parks, sporting fields and their connectivity) increases physical activity frequency.
- Opportunities to develop physical, social and decision-making skills are increased through participation in sport and recreation activities.
- Participation in recreation, sport and physical activity can help individuals explore strategies for conflict resolution and reduce stress.

4.1.2 Benefits to communities
- Open space, sport and recreation provision is essential for strengthening and maintaining a healthy community. Open space and recreation facilities can provide a focal point for community gathering, promote interaction and combat social isolation.
- Participation in sport and recreation can improve social cohesion, build cultural tolerance and provide support for seniors and people with a disability.
- Open space can provide areas of high visual amenity and attractiveness.
- Open space areas can be used to record and retain history – through place names, commemorative buildings and memorials and preserved areas of cultural significance.
- Open space can provide connectivity – recreation paths along open space corridors can link residential areas with key community facilities.
- Open space can provide buffers between incompatible land uses.
- Access to public parks and recreation facilities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and in particular to reduced juvenile delinquency. Recreation facilities and programs can keep at-risk youth off the streets, give them a safe environment to interact with their peers, and fill up time within which they could otherwise get into trouble.
- Learn-to-swim programs reduce the incidence of drowning. Research has shown that learn-to-swim programs can reduce the risk of drowning by up to 88% in children aged 1 to 4 (the most at-risk group).

4.1.3 Benefits to the environment
- Open space can help to maintain a sustainable environment by reducing water run-off and flooding-related problems, offsetting carbon emissions and filtering pollutants (vegetation), and by providing habitats that support delicate ecosystems.
- Where open space provides for quality active transport opportunities and walking and cycling replace car trips, additional environmental benefits include reduced traffic congestion, reduced air pollution, reduced greenhouse emissions and reduced noise pollution.

4.1.4 Benefits to the economy
- Quality open space can increase the value of nearby properties.
- Participation can reduce obesity and health care costs – improved physical health and the building of stronger families and communities helps lower health-care costs.
- Quality open space and recreation services can attract businesses, employees and tourists. In fact, research has shown that recreation, parks and open space are some of the most important factors when new business locations are considered.
- Many events are hosted in open space areas – from small local community-based events, through to those of national importance.
- Significant employment is created through recreation and leisure Centre operations.

Clearly, this summary paints a succinct picture of the benefits that can be derived from open space, sport and recreation facilities. It could be anticipated that a lack of these facilities could result in converse outcomes – poor personal health, limited sense of community and poor amenity, increases in vandalism, environmental degradation and decreased property values (amongst many others).

2 Sherer (2003). Why America Needs more City Parks and Open Space. Parks for People
5 Western Australia Department of Sport and Recreation. (2009). factsandstats – benefits of physical activity. www dsrwa.gov.au
7 Trust for Public Land (United States of America). (1999). Open Space and Attracting Investment – a forum presentation
4.2 Trends in Open Space and Recreation

Despite the glut of continued media coverage of traditional competitive sport, participation patterns in sport and recreation are changing at a community-level. Factors such as a move away from organised structured sport, increased use of technology, and increased time pressures have all had a significant impact on the sport and recreation industry.

Understanding these trends (and their impacts) is important for Councils and clubs looking to develop strategies, programs and facilities to encourage people to become more active.

4.2.1 Participation Trends

A snapshot
- for adults – a move away from traditional organised sport toward physical activity and non-organised (social) sport
- for children – decreases in physical activity (although formal sport participation has not changed), increases in obesity and increases in the amount of leisure time in indoor activities such as computer use.

4.2.2 National Trends

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has conducted a nation-wide Children’s (5 to 14 years) Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey in 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009 and 2012. Overall, children’s participation in organised sport has not changed significantly across these years with rates of 59%, 62%, 64%, 63% and 64% (respectively) identified across the four surveys.

The Australian Sports Commission’s Participation in Exercise, Recreation and Sport Survey (ERASS) has surveyed responses for adults over 15 years of age and noted that participation in organised sport is generally declining.

The table below summarises national-level participation trends for children and adults.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Participation Increases</th>
<th>Participation Declines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Australian Rules Football</td>
<td>athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>indoor and outdoor football (soccer)</td>
<td>baseball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gymnastics</td>
<td>netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>martial arts</td>
<td>tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rugby union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>swimming (that is also the highest participation sport)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Australian Rules Football</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>outdoor cricket</td>
<td>martial arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>lawn bowls</td>
<td>tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>touch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2.3 State Trends

The ERASS reports demonstrate consistency for Queensland with the national trend toward non-organised activities such as aerobics and fitness, walking, running, swimming and cycling. Unfortunately, state-level participation trends for children are not available.

The table below summarises state-level participation trends for adults.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Participation Increases</th>
<th>Participation Declines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>basketball</td>
<td>athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>football (soccer)</td>
<td>cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rugby league</td>
<td>swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>touch</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4.2.4 Local Trends

While limited surveys were resumed from local sporting clubs and associations in the development of this Plan, key findings would indicate:
- netball, rugby union, rugby league, gymnastics and equestrian sports are experiencing growth at the junior level
- cricket and athletics are experiencing declines at junior level
- the majority of sports have experienced stable memberships in recent years.
4.2.5 An Ageing Society

Whilst the median age of the population within the Central Highlands is increasing when compared to the state the overall population is relatively young (31 years compared with 36 years). In 2011, the proportion of people aged 65 years and above represented only 6.1% of the total population (compared with a state-wide proportion of 13.2%). There are, however, concentrations of an ageing population within some communities including the Gemfields.

An older society will have a greater demand for passive and informal recreation opportunities than a younger society. Access to playing fields and formal sport opportunities will continue to be important (as the actual numbers of young people will continue to increase (albeit slowly)). However, greater emphasis will be needed on the requirements of older people - likely to be seeking walking, cycling and other low impact physical activity (e.g. swimming). Parks and public open space will require wider pathways, improved wheelchair/disabled access, more lighting, dog parks and the presence of shaded seats for resting along pathways. The increased use of mobility scooters as a favourable method of transportation will also need to be recognised.

4.2.6 Impacts of Technology

Traditional sport and recreation providers are not only competing against each other for participants but also against non-physical activities such as the internet and computer games.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) nation-wide Children's (5 to 14 years) Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey showed no increase in the use of internet and other screen-based activities between 2003 and 2006. However, significant increases were found between 2006 and 2009 (the most recent time the survey was conducted).

While there are a number of movement-based computer gaming consoles (such as Wii) that can provide a level of physical activity, a much larger proportion provide predominantly sedentary activity.

The increases in the amount of time young people are spending playing computer games, using the internet, watching television and DVDs is limiting available time for sport and recreation opportunities.

4.2.7 Becoming Time Poor

While the popularity of technology appears to be reducing available time for young people to be involved in leisure pursuits, the adult population is also becoming time poor.

Extended trading hours, shift work, increasing numbers in part-time and casual employment and new communications media are changing the concept of the nine to five, five-day work week to a more flexible work/life style. The traditional notion of sport and recreation participation on weekends is diminishing and people are seeking more flexibility in facility opening hours and programming and scheduling of training and competition.

There is increasing demand for drop-in drop-out (or pay as you go) sport and recreation options where participants are looking for opportunities without additional commitments (e.g. training, volunteering etc). Similarly, having limited uncommitted time for recreation pursuits is likely to push people more toward unstructured individual activities (e.g. walking, fitness) that can be conducted at flexible times rather than more traditional sport (particularly team sports) with fixed schedules. Many people are seeking to do activities at their own convenience.

4.2.8 Expectations of Flexible Hours

With the amount of time available for recreation pursuits decreasing, participants are seeking flexible hours to undertake activities. This is of particular concern in the Central Highlands where a significant proportion of the workforce is fly-in fly-out or drive-in drive-out, faces long working hours and/or split shifts. Walking, running and cycling are likely to continue to be popular forms of activity as participants can be flexible in when, where and how long they undertake the activity. For additional activities to retain or gain in popularity it is likely that they will need to be able to offer longer and more flexible operating hours (in the case of activities such as aerobics/fitness and pool swimming) or a more flexible approach to training and competition participation (in the case of more traditional team sports such as football).

4.2.9 Move Toward Indoor Sport?

Anecdotally, within the sport and recreation industry there is some suggestion of a move toward indoor sport (as opposed to outdoor field sports). However, it should be noted that this notion has not been confirmed by any of the ERASS data up to and including 2009 (the most recent survey results).

If this move is shown to be a trend, potentially it may be a result of a preference for activity in a more controlled climate (e.g. out of the summer sun and winter chill) and/or for the greater proportion of mid-week competition opportunities generally provided by indoor sport compared with outdoor. Where possible, some people prefer to keep weekends free for socialising and for participation to occur mid-week.

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1 Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Standard Geographical Classification July 2011 (Queensland Regional Profiles - Central Highlands Regional LGA, September 2012)
4.2.10 Spoilt for Choice

There is now a greater range of formal sport and recreation activities than ever before. From a leisure and fitness perspective, a new wave of classes and circuit training opportunities appear to evolve every few years. Similarly, sports offering a variation of a more traditional sport are beginning to grow in popularity. For instance, OzTag (a derivative of touch and rugby league) has become more popular in recent years. Finally, sports once considered extreme (e.g., BMX, skateboarding and scootering) are becoming more mainstream – with BMX debuting at the 2008 Olympics.

While participation data for many of these newer activities has yet to be collected, there is some potential that participants may choose to be involved in only one or two activities each year spreading thinner the number of participants across each traditional sport.

4.2.11 Lengthening Seasons

Further impacting on leisure time choices is a move toward year-round sport. Nation-wide, a number of sports are lengthening their seasons well past the traditional summer/winter season to the point where it becomes difficult for participants to be involved in more than one activity each year. Alternatively, sports are running two seasons or a modified season (e.g., 20/20 winter cricket) as an adjunct to the primary season. Anecdotally, these moves have yet to be observed in the Central Highlands LGA.

4.2.12 Field Overuse

While participation rates for adults in organised sport and recreation activities has decreased somewhat in recent years; sustained participation rates by young people, increasing populations and increasing range of opportunities have resulted in field overuse and/or lack of fields in a number of areas. Many councils have difficulty allocating field space each season or finding additional areas where clubs achieve growth or when new activities are born. In addition to this highlighting the need for additional land, it also signifies a move toward designated ‘hones’ for individual sports.

A growing trend is for Councils to develop synthetic playing fields in an attempt to address grass field overuse, water conservation and field damage. A number of Queensland councils have noted the success of this trend in Victoria and are conducting feasibility studies to determine the overall benefits of such an approach in their area.
5.0 council-wide considerations

5.1 Background Research

5.1.1 Literature Review

Central Highlands Community Plan 2022

The Central Highlands Community Plan 2022 sets the vision for the Region as;

In 2022, the Central Highlands is renowned for its diversity, livability and prosperity, the region we are proud to call home!

The Central Highlands Community Plan 2022 identifies the vision, outcomes and goals for the community and Council. The Plan covers the social, environmental, economic and governance themes that contribute to the long-term wellbeing of the community.

Significant consultation with residents and key stakeholders was undertaken in the development of the Plan.

A number of Regional Outcomes were developed in order to achieve the Plan’s vision;

1. Resourceful, vibrant community
2. Integrated, quality infrastructure
3. Diverse, prosperous economy
4. Healthy, natural environment
5. Proactive, open governance.

The Regional Outcomes most relevant to the development of the Plan are:

1. Resourceful, Vibrant Community

Vision
- Allows us to enjoy a safe and relaxed lifestyle by accessing places, spaces and events that strengthen our sense of place and community pride
- Has healthy, active and connected communities with well resourced sporting, recreation and leisure facilities, vibrant community groups and volunteers.

Goals
- Plan to offer a diverse range of sporting, recreation and leisure services, programs and events to encourage active lifestyle options and high levels of participation
- Plan and provide a range of social infrastructure to enable access to facilities, services and programs to meet the needs of all ages and abilities.

Outcomes
- Involvement in sport.

2. Integrated, Quality Infrastructure

Vision
- Has well maintained and equipped community facilities providing opportunities for all community members to actively and passively participate
- Will be accessing places that enhance our great lifestyle through innovative and creative urban design.

Goals
- Plan for the development and maintenance of reliable, affordable and integrated regional transport services, networks and systems including public transport options
- Plan and deliver infrastructure development based on best practice urban design principles to enhance our lifestyle quality, heritage, safety and active social inclusion
- Deliver well maintained road-side drainage, walkways and cycling paths with options for limited mobility transport.

Outcomes
- Bike paths, footpaths
- Sporting and recreation facilities.

4. Healthy, Natural Environment

Vision
- Is a place where we enjoy, protect and retain our natural environment and scenic landscapes
- Has urban green spaces and recreational areas promoting healthy active lifestyles
- Is proactively planning, assessing and partnering to balance and mitigate the environmental and social impacts of regional development and growth.

Goals
- Plan, improve and maintain open green spaces, parks and gardens

Outcomes
- Parks, playgrounds and public amenities.

Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan 2007-2017

This Plan was undertaken as a review of the 1997 Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan with the aim of providing a revised report on open space and recreation needs and opportunities in Emerald and the Glenfields.

This Plan was developed for the former Emerald Shire Council prior to the Queensland Local Government amalgamations. A number of key recommendations of the Plan have been implemented since its development.
Skate Park, Tesi Leisure Precinct

Central Highlands Regional Council Open Space and Recreation Plan
5.1.2 Population Considerations

It is important to gain an understanding of the current and future demographic make-up of the Central Highlands Region in order to understand the future open space and recreation requirements of the community.

Spatial and demographic variations in the population, including areas with high concentrations of youth, older residents, and different socio-cultural backgrounds, may impact on the type of activity and environment in which residents choose to recreate and become physically active. Therefore, understanding population size, growth and demographic characteristics is fundamental in responding to community needs and providing facilities, programs and services.

The Central Highlands Region covers an area of approximately 60,000 square kilometres and is defined by thirteen distinct communities and their surrounding rural areas. These thirteen places have been used in this Plan as a basis for planning the future provision of open space and recreation.

Social Profile

The population of the Central Highlands Region, in 2011, was 28,715 persons. Key social characteristics of the Central Highlands Local Government Area (LGA), with comparisons to Queensland, are presented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Central Highlands</th>
<th>Queensland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Persons</td>
<td>28,715</td>
<td>4,332,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age Distribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 0 to 14</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 15 to 24</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 25 to 44</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 45 to 64</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 65+</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages Spoken at Home</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Only</td>
<td>88.0%</td>
<td>84.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Language</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Structures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>76.3%</td>
<td>72.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Person</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Type</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Structure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples without Children</td>
<td>36.8%</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples with Children</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Parent Family</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Characteristics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People undertaking Volunteer Work</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwellings with no Internet Connection</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwellings with no Motor Vehicle</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With almost a third of the Central Highland's population aged between 25 and 44, and almost a quarter aged between 0 and 14, there are implications for the recreation needs of this young population. The median age of the Region is projected to increase to 36 years by 2031, while the median age of Queensland at this time is projected to be 40 years. The Region has a higher proportion of couples with children and a lower proportion of one-parent families when compared to Queensland. Whilst there is only a small proportion of the population aged over 65 (6.2%) at a Council-wide level, a number of individual towns are recognised as being older communities (e.g. the Gemfields).

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1 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011, released 30 October 2012
Projected Population

The projected growth for the Central Highlands LGA is relatively slow, with most of the growth projected to be in small pockets, particularly in Emerald, Capella and Tieri. By 2031, the population is expected to reach approximately 50,742 people, an increase of more than 20,000 permanent residents over 20 years.

The table below highlights population breakdowns by age group for the Central Highlands LGA and Queensland. It compares 2011 results with projected 2031 results.

Central Highlands and Queensland Population by Age
5.2 Consultation
Consultation was undertaken with the community of each of the thirteen places, across the Central Highlands. The details of the consultation for each place is discussed in detail in the place-based considerations section of the Plan.

This section provides details on regional-wide considerations.

5.2.1 Councillors
The Councillors were engaged early in the establishment of the project, through a Councillor Briefing. The preferences of the Councillors were discussed, as well a number of general issues and opportunities. Key considerations include:
- that face-to-face consultation occur in all thirteen 'places'
- the importance of incorporating previous Council research conducted across the current and former legacy council areas
- the need for multi-use facilities across the Region
- the threat from shift-work on sport and recreation participation and the lack of volunteers and coaches
- rationalisation of facilities - people are willing to drive to good facilities
- the need to recognise the distribution of head-quarter facilities across the Region
- the need to strike a balance between organised and non-organised activities.

A second Councillor Briefing was held following the consultation phase to discuss the emerging themes and directions for the Plan.

A third Briefing will be conducted once all community feedback has been received and reviewed.

5.2.2 Council Staff

Sport Considerations
Council works closely with the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing to ensure consistent messages are presented to clubs.

In recent years, Council has developed a number of master plans that have lead to facility development and/or planned capital works.

Council is keen for regional-level, 'headquarter' sports for each sporting discipline to be spread across the Region where practical. Additionally, it is important that the Plan reflects the importance of motor-sport and equestrian-related sports to the Region.

Open Space Maintenance Considerations
Council has limited protocols leading facility maintenance. For instance, mowing is conducted on an as-need basis rather than planned basis. Similarly, Council has no policy on specific items such as park fencing.

Council currently has a range of maintenance regimes for sport facilities - some clubs conduct their own maintenance, others share with Council, while Council fully maintains a number of other sport facilities. This situation needs to be rectified with a consistent approach adopted across the Region.

Facility Planning Considerations
Despite Council efforts since amalgamation, inequity still exists across the Region with regard to sport and recreation facility provision, development, management and maintenance.

Council requires an updated priority list for recreation and sport facility upgrades and provision to guide future decision-making and capital works funding.

The development of walk-cycle networks has largely been ignored in the past - with only footpaths developed as part of new residential developments.

Limited planning or community consultation is conducted for local parks. Potentially, Council may consider employing a Landscape Architect to drive appropriate maintenance and development within open space areas.

Community Planning Considerations
Council's Central Highlands Community Plan 2022 was approved in late 2011. To assist planning, Council has divided the region into thirteen succinct communities. The development of the Central Highlands Community Plan 2022 involved a wide range of community engagement processes. Importantly, the consultation undertaken for the Open Space and Recreation Plan complements rather than repeats that of the Central Highlands Community Plan 2022.

Tourism Considerations
There are limited tourist attractions within Emerald. Most travellers use Emerald as a stop on their way to the Gemfields and/or Carnarvon Gorge.

Lake Maraboon (Fairbarin Dam) to the immediate south of Emerald is increasing in popularity. For many years, Lake Maraboon was a key recreation facility hosting large numbers most weekends. Its facilities and management declined through an extended period of drought and this destination now needs to be reinvigorated.

Emerald requires a high quality open space area for visitors and to host events and outdoor festivals. Potentially, the southern end of Morton Park could be developed as a tourist facility and event area. The Pioneer Township requires upgrades, interpretative signage, kiosk and amenities.

There is a network of 24 hour roadside locations throughout the Council area that are utilised by the travelling public and in particular 'grey nomads'. The roadside locations level of facilities is inconsistent and they are located under a range of different tenures. There is potential to develop a consistent approach to the provision of 24 hour roadside locations that utilise the Council open space network. It would also need to include access to infrastructure such as picnic facilities and dump points that would be available to residents.

At a broader level, Council should consider partnering with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to investigate the development of these road-side stops.
5.2.3 Household Survey

A community survey was posted to 2,000 households across the Central Highlands Region, ensuring that a comparative rate of surveys was distributed relative to the population levels of all thirteen places. A total of 203 responses were returned (representing responses from households with a total population of more than 450). The intent of the questionnaire was not, necessarily, to act as a representative sample survey but to provide interested residents with an opportunity to contribute their opinions to the Plan.

The survey guided responses by asking for feedback on:

- level of satisfaction with park and reserve features, sport and recreation facilities, facilities and programs
- sport and recreation aspect likes and dislikes
- changes, new facilities or programs desired.

The results may indicate the views of a cross section of the community and when considered in the context of the wider consultation strategy, provide insights into the needs of the community. However, the findings may not be representative of each locality or community within the local government area and care should be taken to not generalise the results.

The survey has produced a wide range of data and feedback. The following section provides a snapshot of the key findings. The results presented below are those calculated at a Council-wide level (by collating all responses). With such a small return sample it is somewhat difficult to generalise results at a place-level. However, where clear results have been highlighted these are identified in the place-based considerations section toward the rear of the document.

Satisfaction levels can provide a guide to where Council may need to refocus or prioritise its resources. Respondents were asked questions regarding their satisfaction with several aspects of the Region’s parks, sport and recreation facilities and activity/program provision.

**Satisfaction - Aspects of Parks and Reserves**

The adjoining figure highlights that respondents were generally satisfied with the number of parks. However, a significant proportion of respondents were also dissatisfied with play equipment and walk/cycle parks and trails within parks.

Council recognises the need for higher quality play equipment and is looking to establish a program of upgrades. Additionally, this Plan will recommend specific required walking and cycling upgrades to guide Council decision-making.

**Satisfaction - Sport and Recreation Facilities**

A number of community, sport and recreation facilities and services are provided across the local government area; respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with these.

Interestingly, as shown in the adjoining figure, none of the six facility types were considered satisfactory by more than 50% of respondents.

Respondents were most satisfied with tennis courts, while walking paths and trails received the highest number of ‘not satisfied’ ratings. Also, skate/bmx/scooter facilities received few ‘satisfaction’ ratings.

A new regional tennis centre has been constructed in Emerald and the majority of towns have tennis facilities (of varying quality). As noted above, Council recognises the need for walk and cycle upgrades. The skate/bmx/scooter facility result is likely to be a reflection of the need for an upgrade to the Emerald facility and the lack of facilities in a number of towns.
Satisfaction - Sport and Recreation Facilities and Programs

Respondents were also asked to determine their level of satisfaction with the range of sport and recreation facilities and programs for specific target groups. The adjoining figure shows that respondents were somewhat dissatisfied across all target groups. Additionally, a significant proportion of 'don't know' responses were recorded. This result reflects the finding from other consultation that limited information is currently available as to options across the Region.

Sport and Recreation Likes

Aligning with the finding that 'number of parks' was the aspect most respondents were satisfied with (from a previous question in the survey), 'good variety' was by far the most frequently reported like.

Additional likes included aquatic facilities and facility maintenance.

Sport and Recreation Dislikes

Compared with likes, a wider range of dislikes were reported by respondents.

Highlighting a divergence in respondent perceptions, limited opportunities were the most frequently reported dislike. This is in contrast to previous survey questions where 'number of parks' and 'good variety' were noted.

Similarly, while 'facility maintenance' was the third highest like, 'lack of maintenance' was the second highest ranking dislike.
Sport and Recreation Improvements/Changes

Respondents were keen to provide Council with suggested improvements and/or changes to enhance the open space and recreation network.

Not surprisingly, many responses were focussed on facility upgrades and maintenance improvements.

Specific suggestions included the need for additional walk/cycle paths, an improved indoor sport facility, dog off-leash parks and additional toilets.
5.2.4 School-Based Workshops

Discussions were held with a range of primary and secondary schools (where they exist) across all of the thirteen places within the Region. The aim of these sessions was to develop a snapshot of participation trends for youth. The difference between ‘sport’ and ‘recreation’ was explained and the students were asked three questions. The questions were:

- whether they were involved in club sports (outside the school system)
- what existing sport and recreation they enjoyed in their area
- what sport and recreation they thought was missing.

To provide results that could be compared across the Region, in primary schools only Year 4 or 5 classes were targeted while in secondary schools only Year 9 or 10 classes were spoken to.

Workshop results for each of the thirteen places are included in the individual place-based considerations. Council-wide comparisons are provided below to compare results across tiers.

Participation in Club Sport (Primary)

Approximately 57% of the primary school students surveyed participated in club sport outside the school sport system. Similar proportions were concluded for boys and girls.

Given the access to a range of formal sport opportunities, it was not surprising that participation rates for Tier 1 (Emerald) were higher than for Tier 2 and Tiers 3/4 (76% compared with 51% and 59% respectively). Of interest, is the finding that participation rates were slightly higher in the smaller towns (Tiers 3/4) than for Tier 2. This may highlight a willingness by the community to travel to access club sport for children.

A snapshot of the range of sports played across the Region is presented in the table below. The table indicates the range of sports participated in by boys and girls and compares results from schools across the tiers. With the largest population base and a wide range of sports on offer, it may have been expected that Tier 1 would have the greatest number of sports. However, children from Tiers 3/4 were involved in a larger range of club sports suggesting that immediate access to sports is not necessarily the greatest factor influencing participation rates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Primary Girls</th>
<th>Primary Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 (Emerald)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 (Blackwater, Capella, Springsure, Tieri)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiers 3/4 (Arcadia Valley, Bahiniiti, Bluff, Comet, Dingon, Dearinga, Gemfields, Rolleston)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When considered across all tiers, preferred sports for primary-aged boys included rugby league, swimming, touch and football. While for girls swimming, netball, tennis, equestrian sports, football and touch were all popular.

Participation in Club Sport (Secondary)

Compared with primary school students, a slightly lower proportion (almost 52%) of the secondary youth surveyed are involved in formal sport outside the school system. However, it should be noted that this finding was bolstered by high participation rates amongst males (62%) while participation for females was somewhat lower (41%). This finding is in-line with many areas in Australia where, for females, drop-off from formal sport begins in the 13 to 15 years age bracket as many face additional time pressures from part-time work, increased study load and relationships.

Participation rates were somewhat higher in Emerald (Tier 1, 57%) than in the Tier 2 towns (47%). (There are no secondary schools in any of the Tier 3/4 towns). It is important to note that female participation in the Tier 2 towns was very low, with only 10% of students interviewed involved in club sport.

The table below compares the range of sports participated in by males and females and compares results between tiers. The range of sports is relatively even except for females in Tier 2 towns where only swimming, touch and netball are played.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Secondary Females</th>
<th>Secondary Males</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 (Emerald)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 (Blackwater, Capella, Springsure)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most popular sports for secondary-aged males include touch, rugby league, tennis and football. Participation for females was limited and spread between netball, touch, swimming, equestrian sports and dance.

Sport and Recreation ‘Likes’ and What’s ‘Missing’

Responses to what facilities students like and what they perceive as ‘missing’ were generally similar across the LGA. Secondary students noted that they liked to ‘hang’ at the local pool or skate/bmx facility (where they exist). Primary-aged students concurred and also added that they enjoyed playing in the key feature recreation park for their area.

Both student groups noted a desire for a community pool and skate/bmx facility (in towns where they do not currently exist). Additionally, students were seeking more adventure-based challenging play opportunities and witer play.
5.2.5 School Principal Survey

School principals were given the opportunity to comment on sport and recreation issues as they affected their school and youth in the Region. Often school principals (particularly in smaller towns) have a good sense of the needs of their local community. Ten schools responded to the survey. The following is a summary of the responses received.

School Use of Community Facilities

All responding schools make use of some community sports facilities. Schools tend to use the community pool for swimming lessons and carnivals (where they exist). Additionally, in smaller towns, the feature sporting field (e.g., Bridgeman Park) is also used.

Satisfaction Rating and Suggested Improvements

Half of the schools were satisfied (Tieri State School was totally satisfied) with the level and quality of Council’s sport and recreation facilities available. However, particularly remote schools (Bauhinia and Arcadia Valley) noted dissatisfaction given the limited community sport and recreation facilities available.

Suggestions to improve Council-provided sport and recreation facilities/programs included:
- Bauhinia – access to a bus to ease travel difficulties
- Blackwater – reduce pool fees for school programs
- Capella – need to encourage Little Athletics to become established
- Emerald – provide storage for schools at the Aquatic Centre, PCYC upgrades, toilet upgrades at Morton Park, clubhouse redevelopment at McIndoe Park
- Gemfields – support the school to complete facility upgrades for the community
- Rolleston – heat the pool, consider opportunities to make the pool more appropriate for learn-to-swim by providing a shallower area
- Springsure – general pool upgrades, change room refurbishment at the Bauhinia Park Sports Complex.

Community Use of School Facilities

Almost all of the schools indicated that they made their sporting facilities available for community use. However, level of use is determined by individual principals and is thus varied from school to school.

Facilities include tennis courts, cricket practice nets, covered basketball and netball courts and sporting fields. Additionally, in smaller towns a number of schools make their playgrounds available after hours.

Concerns or barriers to public access and community use include:
- poor condition of school facilities/overuse of fields
- insurance concerns – some schools require community groups to provide current public liability insurance
- security concerns after hours.

Proposed School Facilities

Sport and recreation facilities (that may potentially be of benefit for the community) planned by schools in the next five years are shown below. A number of schools indicated that proposals were dependent on securing funding.

Sports Facility Proposals Include:
- Marist College Emerald – provision of lighting, changerooms and irrigation to support the College oval; development of an indoor sports complex
- Capella State High School – oval upgrades (irrigation and levelling)
- Rolleston State School – tennis court re-surfacing.

Sport, Recreation and Open Space Issues for Young People

Schools identified a range of key needs and issues for young people. A summary of these needs by location is listed below:
- Blackwater – enhanced recreation opportunities for youth
- Capella – access to quality sporting opportunities is limited
- Emerald – skate facility upgrade, development of indoor sport facility
- Rolleston – recreation opportunities for older youth (skate facility)
- Springsure – additional formal sport opportunities for females, need for year-round access to the pool
- Tieri – requires a large community hall.
5.2.6 Sport-Focussed Consultation

Sport and Recreation Club Surveys

A survey was sent to all known sport and recreation groups in the local government area. Prior to this, most groups were contacted so that they were aware that the Plan was being prepared.

Ultimately, 29 surveys were returned. It should be noted that the surveys were only one aspect of consultation with sport clubs. Meetings were held with individual groups and two sport-specific forums were conducted. These consultation events, and others, have helped shape the recommendations.

Membership

Almost 50% of clubs noted membership increases across the last three years. Similarly, 63% of clubs predict increases across the next three years. Interestingly, while 39% of clubs noted membership decreases in recent years, none of the clubs expect decreases to continue in coming years.

Planning

This question asked clubs about the status of their planning. Two basic plans that all clubs should have were used as surrogate indicators for all planning.

Asked about whether the club had a Club Development Plan, nearly 38% indicated they did not, 31% indicated that they did and 31% were planning to develop one within a year (see figure below).

As indicated in the figure below, when asked whether the club had a Risk Management Plan slightly more indicated they did than compared to a Club Development Plan. In this case, almost 21% noted that they did not have a Risk Management Plan while more than 48% indicated that they did.

For both plans, the level of planning is disappointing. Without a Club Development Plan the organisation is likely to lurch in different directions as volunteers change over. The Club Development Plan gives direction to the organisation and membership.

A Risk Management Plan can protect the organisation, its executive and members, and the public from harm. It is a basic Plan for good governance recommended for all clubs (especially where the club owns or leases facilities).

Land Tenure

Of the Clubs that responded, almost 43% used Council managed land while approximately 36% owned their land. Two responding clubs lease their facilities directly from the State Government.
Adequacy of Facilities

This question asked respondents about the facilities that they used (where relevant). Additionally, the question required clubs to consider whether the facility would be adequate in coming years. Interestingly, most clubs note that their existing facilities are inadequate to cater for future growth.

The table below indicates the more significant facilities (or those shared with several groups) where shortfalls in adequacy were noted. The User Comment is the description of issues given by the respondents. A number of these facilities may fall to Council to lead the upgrade, however, a few are likely to be the responsibility of the user groups. The community will be facing significant upgrade works over coming years if all of these facilities are to be upgraded to the level expected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>User Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baulkham Showgrounds</td>
<td>Blackwater</td>
<td>P.A. system, bar and dining hall, toilets and showers all require upgrades, major power upgrades required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Street Sports Complex</td>
<td>Blackwater</td>
<td>Lack of cricket practice nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pony Club Facility</td>
<td>Blackwater</td>
<td>Clubhouse and amenities upgrades required, arena to be lit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwater Clay Target</td>
<td>Blackwater</td>
<td>Storage upgrades, camping facility upgrades, access road improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeman Park</td>
<td>Capella</td>
<td>Stable improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comet Showgrounds</td>
<td>Comet</td>
<td>Enhanced stabling; power; amenities and club facility upgrades; enhanced camping facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Action</td>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td>Squash and tennis court surface upgrades, golf driving range redevelopment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marist College</td>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td>High and long jump approach upgrades, oval lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCYC</td>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td>Roof leak to be rectified, stadium flooring upgrade required, air conditioning required, gymnastics facility to be expanded, pest control to be addressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald Showgrounds</td>
<td>Emerald</td>
<td>Poor access and facilities for cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Day Park</td>
<td>Glenfields</td>
<td>Flooding and drainage issues to be rectified, canteen and amenity upgrades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolleston Showgrounds</td>
<td>Rolleston</td>
<td>Arena surface to be upgraded, safety fence to be erected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springsure Football Facility</td>
<td>Springsure</td>
<td>Enhanced mowing and amenities upgrades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springsure Showgrounds</td>
<td>Springsure</td>
<td>Develop a covered arena and upgrade the dining facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springsure SSAA Shooting Complex</td>
<td>Springsure</td>
<td>Access road upgrades, canteen improvements, firing line extension</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Initiatives and Programs

Clubs were also asked to identify any new initiatives and/or programs planned. Encouragingly, a number of clubs have identified initiatives to reinvigorate their sports in an attempt to attract new membership. The table below identifies these endeavours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blackwater Clay Target Club</td>
<td>Offer additional come and try days, open days and corporate days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackwater Junior Cricket Club</td>
<td>Offer pre-season training opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Highlands Cricket Association</td>
<td>Host inter-town junior night-time cricket galas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Highlands Water Sports Club</td>
<td>Provide additional opportunities in kayaking, canoeing and water safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comet Cutting</td>
<td>Upgrade facilities to attract additional participants and events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comet River Agriculture and Show Society</td>
<td>Establish campdraft schools and provide additional showjumping events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comet River Pony Club</td>
<td>Provide additional Pony Club schools for participants and Instructors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Action</td>
<td>Develop a new golf driving range and mini golf facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald Brothers Cricket Club</td>
<td>Provide off-season games, night fixtures and indoor cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald Netball Association</td>
<td>Consider the implementation of mixed and social competitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerald PCYC</td>
<td>New indoor sport opportunities – indoor soccer, cricket and netball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gemfields Riding for the Disabled</td>
<td>Offer trail rides for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Quarter Horse Association</td>
<td>Establish a family fun day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Club of Emerald Sunrise</td>
<td>Further develop Rotary Sunrise Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubyvale Progress Association</td>
<td>Develop a geotrail interpretive information area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporting Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Springsure Branch</td>
<td>Offer additional club competitions and safety training courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springsure Junior Rugby League</td>
<td>Promote at a range of local events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springsure Swim Club&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Provide come and try days, invite professionals for promotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TSKF Emerald</td>
<td>Host the Central Queensland titles as a promotional tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildhorse Cutting Club</td>
<td>Provide community training days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> Comment provided by Councillor at draft stage
Issues

A range of issues that may affect clubs in the Region were listed and the respondents were asked to rank them from having a “great impact” through to “no impact” with the option of “don’t know” where relevant.

The results are shown in the figure below. Issues have been ordered with those having the greatest impact listed first.

When ‘great impact’ and ‘some impact’ results are combined, three of the four top issues relate directly to financial capacity—“Cost of maintaining the venue for your activity”, “Difficulty in accessing grant funding” and “Cost of playing or participating is increasing”. Indeed, facility maintenance cost is causing an impact for 96% of respondents.

Additionally, “Declining number of volunteers” and “Lack of access to training opportunities for volunteers” are also causing an impact.

If the volunteer-related result is taken in the context of the issues clubs also face with regard to facility maintenance costs and general funding, it highlights that Council should have some success encouraging organisations toward quality multi-use facilities where opportunity may exist to share financial and volunteer burdens.
5.2.7 Additional Key Discussions

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing (Sport and Recreation Services)

The Department provided a snapshot of key requirements for a number of sports:

- football - looking to continue to grow and provide pathways to elite level
- cricket - require additional field space for seniors. Showgrounds proposal unlikely to meet needs of the sport
- motorsport - big 'push' for the development of a drag strip and mud buggy facility. Opportunity to develop a precinct incorporating recently developed go karts track
- BMX Facility - with no club in town, this has the potential to become a white elephant. The facility needs to be programmed
- gymnastics - has strong membership base and requires additional area to meet club needs
- karate - require a home with a sprung timber floor
- equestrian sports - while the Region has a wide range of equestrian facilities and attracts regular events, many of the facilities require significant upgrades.

Clubs (and the Department) are unsure who to talk to within Council regarding various sport-related issues. Council needs to advertise their processes more widely to ensure clear communication channels are maintained.

Sport-related Discussions

Council-wide Issues

There are a number of common issues experienced by clubs across the region, including:

- inequity in maintenance
- lack of information/communication from Council
- uncertainty in Council contacts
- desire for certainty in tenure
- need for assistance with training and education from Council.

Sport Specific Issues

There are two state sports organisations with Development Officers operating within the Central Highlands. Outcomes of discussions with these officers are listed below.

Queensland Rugby Union (QRU)

Rugby union is enjoying steady growth. In fact, in the last three years the sport has grown from having no juniors to more than 500. Senior membership, however, has remained stable in this time. To advance senior numbers, QRU is looking to establish a junior playing base at each club to ensure pathways exist through to seniors.

The facilities at Tieri and Blackwater are of a high standard and should be the level that all facilities are aimed toward. QRU hosts the annual Junior Country Muster each year at Tieri. The two-day event attracts 500 competitors and is well-supported by XStrata (who provide tents, and portable toilets and showers).

Queensland Rugby League (QRL)

Rugby league currently operates from a number of facilities including McIndoe Park, Hunter Street Sports Complex, Springsure Showgrounds and Roy Day Park. The McIndoe Park field surface is not suitable as it is too hard and causes injuries. The lighting also needs to be upgraded. Junior clubs use the Agricultural College fields and Emerald High School for training.

Rugby League is experiencing growth in junior ranks, while senior memberships continue to be stable. Training for senior clubs is difficult with a large proportion of players working night shifts. Additionally, many clubs find they require up to three coaches per team due to the need to cater for shift work.

Training is an issue for senior teams, with shift workers not regularly available to participate. This also impacts upon junior teams, with each team requiring multiple coaches to enable the team to always have an available coach. Queensland Cup games have been held within the region in the past two years, with games required to be played in the afternoon because of the poor lighting.

Central Highlands cannot host State Secondary School Rugby League carnivals due to the limited number of fields available, the poor quality of the fields, the cost of the flights for participants to travel to Emerald, and the lack of affordable accommodation. There is a general lack of formal agreements between Council and Clubs over use of sites, which restricts the clubs in applying for grants.

There is a need for Council and the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing to assist Clubs with governance and succession planning.

1 The Muster was conducted in Emerald in 2013
5.3 Active Transport

The provision of active transport is important to health and livability and involves the community walking, cycling or using public transport rather than their private vehicle. The opportunity for and feasibility of active transport in the Central Highlands is largely dependent upon the characteristics of the individual place.

The challenges for active transport in the Central Highlands Region include the large geographic area; absence of public transport; major highways dividing towns with limited safe crossing points; limited supporting infrastructure such as shade, seating and water along existing pathways; and the need for additional pathway connections to key areas. Given the distance, there is little opportunity for connections between towns, including any of the thirteen places. There are however, a number of opportunities for active transport within a number of the towns while some places have a reasonable existing provision of pathways, as well as wide uncongested roads.

Detailed information on the existing and proposed active transport opportunities are outlined in the place-based considerations section of this Plan.

Key active transport elements to be considered include:

- provision of off-road, flat, shared pathways
- pedestrian and cycle connections to key community, education, retail, transport and open space functions
- provision of safe crossing points on major roads and intersections
- adequate shade, water, seating and end-of-trip facilities
- directional and awareness signage
- designated cycle lanes on major commuter cycle routes
- support from local employers in the provision of showers for employees.

Current practice for the development of cycleways and pathways are varied across towns and reflect historical practices. Path widths vary from 0.9m through to 2.5m in some areas.

The Capricorn Municipal Development Manual specifies a number of Design Guidelines, including the Cycleway and Pathway Design (D9). The Guideline aims to set the minimum design requirements relating to the provision of cycleways and pathways. The minimum path width in accordance with the design standards for cycleways and pathways is as follows:

- cycleway (minor and major urban collectors) - 2 metres
- pathway (access place and access street) - 1.2 metres
- pram ramps at every road entry.

Future path widths should comply with the Capricorn Municipal Design Guideline.

Emerald Botanic Gardens
In addition to the Capricorn Municipal Design Guidelines, the following information is taken from the Austroads Guide to Road Design - Part 6A: Pedestrian and Cyclist Paths.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Path Type</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Situation - High Pedestrian Volumes</strong></td>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desired width - 2.4m (or higher based on demand)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments:</td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Diagram" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ generally for use in high demand areas and use by multiple modes such as pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Situation - For Wheel Chairs to Pass**| ![Diagram](image3.png) |
| Desired width - 1.8m to 1.5m |
| Comments:                               | ![Diagram](image4.png) |
| ☐ 1.2m minimum clear width for one wheelchair |
| ☐ 1.5m to 1.8m allows for two wheelchairs to pass |

| **Situation - General Low Demand** | ![Diagram](image5.png) |
| Desired width - 1.2m to 1.0m (absolute minimum) |
| Comments:                               | ![Diagram](image6.png) |
| ☐ general minimum is 1.2m for most roads and streets |
| ☐ clear width required for one wheelchair |
| ☐ not adequate for commercial or shopping environments |
6.0 open space provision

The table below shows Council’s existing open space classification (as documented in the 1997 and 2007 Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan), and the translation of this into the new Central Highlands Region Classification including open space type and hierarchy.

### 6.1 Open Space Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Open Space Type and Hierarchy</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Proposed Open Space Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Proposed Sub-classification (Hierarchy)</th>
<th>Trunk Public Parks (PIP)</th>
<th>Recommended Land Use Zone (Proposed Planning Scheme)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal Parks/ Civic Gardens</td>
<td>Parks and gardens which offer some civic amenity such as memorials, fountains and toilets within a highly maintained setting (e.g., Rotary Park, Emerald)</td>
<td>Recreation Park</td>
<td>Informal recreation spaces used for social, cultural and informal/unorganised recreational activities. Recreation parks provide a range of equipment from playgrounds, picnic shelters, barbecues, kick-about areas, toilets and car parking. Recreation parks can support urban bushland as well as contain formalised gardens and landscaped areas. The embellishment provision is based on the parks hierarchy.</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Suburban Play Parks</td>
<td>Parks situated within an area of suburban development, usually of a smaller size and including play equipment (e.g., Stanton and Galt Parks, Emerald)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3 (Local)</td>
<td>Parks whose main recreation focus is water-related activities (e.g., Lika Maraboon)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterside Parks</td>
<td>Areas which cater for structured recreation activities (e.g., Rundle Park and Morron Parks)</td>
<td>Sportsgrounds and courts</td>
<td>Open space that primarily caters for a variety of formal sporting activities through the provision of a range of training and competition infrastructure. These include: facilities for undertaking competitive, organised activities; and ancillary infrastructure to support sporting activities. These sites provide free, unrestricted access to the public at times when formal sporting activities are not being undertaken.</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Community Facilities*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All development of open space and recreation land shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Plain Hazard Overlay contained within the Planning Scheme.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Open Space Type and Hierarchy</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Proposed Open Space Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Trunk Public Parks (PIP)</th>
<th>Recommended Land Use Zone (Proposed Planning Scheme)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Purpose</td>
<td>Parks which have one special purpose, such as a golf course, bowls club or swimming pool.</td>
<td>Specialised Sport and Recreation</td>
<td>Specialised sport facilities are specific in nature - requiring individual infrastructure to make them usable, or are private facilities that may not be publicly accessible.</td>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; Community Facilities&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (land only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary</td>
<td>Council-managed areas which may have an open space or recreational role but whose primary function is directed towards other activities such as Council depots, cemeteries and road reserves.</td>
<td>Other Open Space</td>
<td>Land that is currently not considered as part of the trunk open space network. It includes a variety of functions that may offer some community benefit, although where recreation value exists this is usually a secondary function of the land.</td>
<td>Amenity</td>
<td>Community Facilities&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt; Environmental Management and Conservation&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Bushland</td>
<td>Areas within the urban fabric which have been maintained as bushland areas (e.g. Rifle Range Reserve).</td>
<td>Recreation Corridors</td>
<td>Linear parkland providing opportunities for recreational trails, accommodating formal walking/cycling with connectivity to the open space network. The network also contains a large area of urban bushland.</td>
<td>Distric-Regional</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; Community Facilities&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt; Environmental Management and Conservation&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes (in some recreation settings only)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup>All development of open space and recreation land shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Flood Plain Hazard Overlay contained within the Planning Scheme.
6.2 Open Space Provision Tiers

Further to the application of the Desired Standard of Service, a four tiered hierarchy of places within the Central Highlands has been established, in order to appropriately plan for the future open space, sport and recreation needs of each community across the region. Active Transport can also be roughly addressed within the tiers.

The four tiers provide detail on the level of facilities and embellishments that the community can expect, as well as indicative travel distances for the community to access additional facilities. The sustainability of open space facilities must be considered in the provision of future open space, with an important component being the Council (and community’s) ability to fund, operate and maintain.

The amount of parkland required to be provided, along with the level of facilities and embellishments has a direct impact on the infrastructure charge for parkland contained within Council’s Priority Infrastructure Plan and associated Adopted Infrastructure.

The relevant embellishments for each tier is discussed within the upcoming section on ‘open space types’.

In addition to the open space standards outlined in the four tiers, there is a spread of ‘headquarter’ sporting facilities across the Region. These facilities are also discussed in the upcoming section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Towns and townships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>Emerald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>Blackwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Capella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Springsure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tieri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>Bauhinia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bluff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dingo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duaringa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gemfields (Anakie, Rubynale, Sapphire and Gemfields Willows)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rolleston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four</td>
<td>Arcadia Valley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.2.1 Tier One

Emerald is a Tier One town. It is the population and business centre of the Central Highlands Region. With an estimated population of 13,884, Emerald can support the full spectrum and hierarchy of open space types, including recreation parks, sportsgrounds and courts, and recreation corridors. It also provides a number of the Region’s specialised facilities.

Recreation Parks
- Emerald’s residents have access to a range of passive recreation facilities. Local recreation parks provide the community with basic level recreation opportunities within walking distance from their homes i.e. Victor Peters Park
- district recreation parks provide a number of recreation facilities and are usually within a two minute drive for most residents. Lions Park provides a district level recreation opportunity within Emerald
- the Emerald Botanic Gardens is an example of a regional level recreation park - providing a range of facilities and opportunities for the widest range of users.

Sportsgrounds and Courts
- Emerald requires a number of district level sporting facilities to support the sporting needs of the community. Multi-use facilities are preferred as they encourage shared facilities and amenities (where possible), limiting club and Council resource requirements. A number of fields or courts are required to support regular training and competition
- regional sporting facilities are capable of hosting large regional competitions and fixtures. The touch football grounds at the Racecourse, and netball and tennis at Rundle Park are both examples of regional level sporting facilities, each capable of hosting a number of teams/games at the one time.

Specialised Sport and Recreation Facilities
A number of specialised sports facilities exist within Tier One towns. In the case of Emerald, these include:
- Emerald Aquatic Centre
- Emerald PCYC (indoor sport and recreation facility)
- Sunrise Rotary BMX facility
- Emerald Driver Training and Motorsport Complex
- Emerald Racecourse
- Emerald Showgrounds.
These facilities service a district to regional catchment.

Recreation Corridors
Tier one towns provide opportunities for regional recreation trails. The Nogoa River Corridor provides significant opportunity within Emerald for the development of a noteworthy trail. On a smaller scale, the Botanic Gardens provide a network of recreation trails.

Active Transport
Emerald provides the greatest opportunity for active transport within the Central Highlands given its population and concentration of attractions such as schools, open space, commercial and civic functions, and retail. There is provision of off-road pathways connecting the community to key services including education, retail and commercial, employment and open space. This network should be enhanced to provide supporting infrastructure including shade, seating and water.

The adjoining figure illustrates an indicative open space provision for a tier one town.
Tier One - Indicative Open Space Provision (best-practice example)
6.2.2 Tier Two

The towns that comprise Tier Two have an approximate population range of 900 to 5,500 people. The population (made up of both permanent and transient residents) can support a number of open space types, however not the full spectrum or hierarchy.

Recreation Parks

- Local recreation opportunities are provided in Tier Two towns, within reasonable walking distance to most residents.
- In addition to local recreation parks, Tier Two towns typically have one district level recreation park i.e. Capella Parklands, Zamia Parklands, Springsure, Tieri Lions Park and Blackwater All-Abilities Playground.

Sportsgrounds and Courts

- Tier Two places require one or two district level sporting facilities to support the sporting needs of the community. Multi-use facilities are preferred as they encourage shared facilities and amenities (where possible), limit club and Council resource requirements, and provide for a wider range of sporting disciplines. A number of fields or courts are required to support regular training and competition.
- The provision of regional sporting facilities in Tier Two places is not a given, however a number of quality facilities exist within some Tier Two communities. Examples include Hunter Street Sporting Complex and Capella Covered Arena. These facilities are provided on an as-needs basis and should complement the existing headquarter facilities i.e. should not duplicate existing provision.

Specialised Sport and Recreation Facilities

Specialised sport and recreation facilities are not common in Tier Two places. On occasion, a regional-level facility may be located in a Tier Two town. These facilities may serve a district to regional catchment and most commonly include aquatic centres. Capella, Blackwater, Springsure and Tieri all have 25m or 50m pools, which service their towns and surrounding areas (i.e. Tier Three towns).

Active Transport

Tier Two towns provide reasonable opportunities for active transport. The condensed nature of the town centres and concentration of key infrastructure and services within the town area (schools, open space, commercial and civic functions, and retail) make pedestrian connectivity achievable. There is a reasonable provision of off-road pathways within Tier Two places. This provision should be enhanced to provide users with supporting infrastructure including shade, seating and water.

Tier Two - Indicative Open Space Provision

[Map diagram showing open space provision with key for local recreation, district recreation, district sport, specialised sport, active transport connection, recreation corridor connection.]

34
6.2.3 Tier Three

The towns (and their surrounds) that comprise Tier Three have an approximate population range of 200 to 600 people. The population can support both sport and recreation opportunities within a reduced spectrum of open spaces (when compared to tiers one and two).

Recreation Parks

- recreation opportunities in Tier Three towns are provided for in the form of a central town park which usually includes a suitable area for visitors to rest. The town park acts as a district park in these circumstances and provides additional facilities than a local park, (such as amenities and a barbecue) however are smaller sized than a district park.

Sportsgrounds and Courts

- sporting opportunities are centred around one or two central facilities, often a showground or designated sportsground (or both). If sporting use is combined with equestrian uses, they are to be provided as separate areas. Sports field configuration is to allow for a number of field sports to be played, across both seasons.
- school fields and facilities are an important sporting asset, with after hour community use often encouraged
- tennis courts are often provided for at sportsgrounds, community halls or at the local school
- where no specific club exists, new courts should be developed to allow for multi-use by tennis, netball and basketball.

Specialised Open Space Facilities

Small swimming pools exist in the Tier Three towns of Rolleston, Duaringa and the Gemfields. Provision of new pools in other Tier Three towns is not supported, however these existing facilities are important community assets and need to be maintained given the distance to the next Tier Two towns.

Programs

Due to the limited formal sport and recreation opportunities within Tier Three places, programs are critical in engaging the community in physical activity. Programs need to be based on informal recreation opportunities or flexible sports (rather than team sports) to allow any number of participants to be involved.

Active Transport

Tier Three places have limited formal opportunities for active transport. Further, people residing within the town area of Tier Three places generally have ample access to the local services and facilities within minimal walking distances. Pathways are to be provided between key services and facilities including the town feature park, school, hall and retail.

Tier Three - Indicative Open Space Provision

![Diagram of Tier Three open space facilities with key: District Recreation, District Sport, Active Transport Connection, School]
6.2.4 Tier Four

Arcadia Valley is the only place within Tier Four. Whilst it services a large rural catchment, the remoteness and distribution of the population requires a unique open space provision (when compared to the other three tiers). Arcadia Valley is also the only place with no commercial centre or evident residential cluster.

The Arcadia Valley State School is the education and community hub of the Arcadia Valley. The School requires ongoing support in the provision and maintenance of sport and recreation facilities and programs for both students and the local community.

The tennis courts, community hall, playground and sports fields sufficiently cater for the current population’s sport and recreation needs.

6.3 Embellishments by Hierarchy of Towns

In line with the Desired Standard of Service and discussion on the hierarchy of tiers, the following table provides a summary of the likely provision of facilities for each tier based on the open space classification.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification Type</th>
<th>Hierarchy</th>
<th>Tier One</th>
<th>Tier Two</th>
<th>Tier Three</th>
<th>Tier Four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Park</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (or school-based facilities*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportgrounds and Courts</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (or school-based facilities*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialised Sport and Recreation</td>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aquatic</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No*</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specialised</td>
<td>Provision as required</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Open Space</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Corridors</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*except when headquarter sport exists

*providing agreement can be negotiated to allow suitable public access
6.4 Network Distribution

In an attempt to service the entire Region, key open space facilities need to be well distributed. It needs to be understood that not all places need all types of activities, with 'headquarters' sports servicing the Region, while smaller facilities support identified centres. Where headquarters are not identified or preferred, Council will continue to spread resources across facilities to enable ongoing participation in these activities.

6.4.1 Sport Park Distribution

The provision of high level facilities needs to be balanced against the Council and community's capacity to fund development and ongoing operation. The spread of sport 'headquarters' across the Region focuses on the best-use of Council's resources and existing, well-established facilities.

The following have been identified as being regional 'headquarters' sports for the Central Highlands:

**Athletics**

Emerald is currently the headquarters for athletics, with Marist College providing facilities.

**Aquatics**

The Emerald Aquatic Centre provides a 50m, 10-lane pool, a 25m heated 8-lane pool, a learn-to-swim pool, hydrotherapy pool, heated wading/leisure pool and a toddler pool.

The Capella Aquatic Centre has a 50m, 8-lane pool, learn-to-swim pool, water play, and slide with plunge pool.

These two headquarters facilities are supported by the swimming pools at Tieri, Blackwater, Springsure, Rolleston, Daurina, and Sapphire. Whilst many of these facilities require upgrades, Emerald and Capella will remain the headquarters for the Region.

**BMX**

The Sunrise Rotary BMX facility at Emerald is home to BMX racing.

**Cricket**

Emerald is home for cricket within the Central Highlands, however a new facility with additional fields is required (likely within Emerald).

**Football (Soccer)**

Blackwater has two quality playing fields and is, thus, considered the Central Highlands headquarters for football. Blackwater is supported by Morton Park at Emerald.

**Gymnastics and trampolining**

The Emerald PCYC building is currently the home of gymnastics and trampolining within the Region, however requires a new, larger facility within Emerald (see indoor sports below).

**Indoor Sports**

There are few indoor court sport and recreation facility in the Region. Existing facilities include the Emerald PCYC, Blackwater PCYC, Springsure Indoor Cricket and indoor facility at the Emerald Showgrounds.

A new larger indoor facility that is purpose-built for sport and recreation is required to service the Region, and it is recommended that this be built in Emerald. The facility would be supported by existing facilities and a number of community halls which provide limited indoor recreation opportunities.

**Multi-feld Carnivals**

Hunter Street Sports Complex at Blackwater is the only multi-field facility capable of hosting a number of large events across a number of disciplines.

**Netball**

Rundle Park in Emerald is home to netball. The new facility has six netball courts, and three combined tennis/netball courts.

**Polo Cross**

There are three locations that host polocrosse events - Bridgeman Park (Capella), Bauhinia Sporting Complex and the Emerald Racecourse.

**Rugby League**

McIndoe Park (Emerald) and Hunter Street (Blackwater) are the headquarters for rugby league within the Region.

**Rugby Union**

The focus of rugby union is in Emerald at this time. There is potential to reactivate the Tieri facilities in the future.

**Tennis**

Rundle Park in Emerald provides seven dedicated tennis courts, with three additional combined tennis/netball courts. A private facility is also provided in Emerald.

Rundle Park is supported by smaller tennis facilities in the majority of towns across the Region.

**Touch Football**

Emerald is the home to touch football on the Central Highlands and is supported by the Hunter Street Sports Complex at Blackwater.

Additional facilities are located at Tieri, Rolleston and Springsure.

6.4.2 Council-wide Distribution

There is a range of sports and recreation activities that are conducted across the Council area that, though they require specialised facilities, do not have a 'headquarters'. These include (but are not limited to) golf, lawn bowls, shooting and a range of equestrian activities. In these cases, each of the town or townships are currently self-supporting in terms of provision of improvements to their facilities. There is usually an historical link where past assistance has been given and some are located on Council land.

These groups are eligible for Council assistance but are generally relying on their own resources at this time. Typically, these groups have some regional connection though competitions, exhibition or training events. Their governance is through a flat, non-hierarchical structure with no facility having pre-eminence. The facilities are at different standards and there would be benefit if many were included in a master plan exercise to provide a focus for future improvement programs.
Headquarters for Key Sports

Central Highlands Regional Council Open Space and Recreation Plan
6.5 Guidelines for the Co-location of Sports

The Central Highlands has a number of sporting facilities that currently host or are capable of hosting multiple sporting codes and multiple teams. These facilities include:

- Hunter Street Sporting Complex
- Rundle Park
- Morcan Park
- Oval 1 and Oval 2 (Tieri)
- McIndoe Park
- Springue Showgrounds
- Brigman Park Sporting Complex
- Roy Day Park
- Bauhinia Sports Complex.

Whilst it is desirable to co-locate sporting codes to ensure the maximum use of a facility, it is often difficult to achieve desirable partnerships. Subsequently, co-location should not be enforced if the partnership of sports and facility or governance conditions are not conducive to ongoing success.

There is no set formula for the successful co-location of sporting codes. However, there are a number of general guiding principles that can be applied to assist Council in determining the right mix at any given facility (existing or greenfield).

The general principles include consideration of:

- size of facility and/or number of playing fields
- number of allocated training fields (if any)
- seasonal considerations of proposed sports
- hours of use including training patterns (and peak use times)
- ancillary facilities available (e.g. lighting, storage, car parking)
- consideration of existing site users (if an existing facility) and impacts of re-configuration on their sport’s primary seasons
- impact of field wear and tear on subsequent sports and timing of turf re-establishment
- overall site layout and flow
- design of facilities
- infrastructure synergies and efficiencies
- determination of priority site users
- management structure and competency
- equality in lease/licence/usage for all user groups
- maintenance regime
- hierarchy of sports - i.e. not all teams can be located at the regional venue
- capacity of the Council to enforce (and mediate) shared use arrangements (of proposed fields, facilities and embellishments).

Critical to the success of co-location is an understanding of the proposed user groups, their needs at the site, as well as the situation at their existing facility (i.e. capacity issues or pressure to relocate).

Field Quality

Facility providers face an increasing trend to develop and re-develop sporting fields to a higher level in order to increase carrying capacity. Upgrades, such as field lighting and irrigation, allow training and competition times to be extended and increase the ability of fields to cope with the resulting wear and tear. Further, to achieve ongoing field quality, fields need ‘rest periods’ (of up to four weeks) where necessary maintenance can be undertaken.

Field Sharing

With many sports extending the lengths of pre-season and season fixtures, sharing of field space is becoming difficult. While providers strive to maximise the use of community resources (and the State Government espouses field sharing), the reality is that shared use of ancillary facilities (e.g. clubhouses, carparks) rather than fields may be more appropriate.

One example is the consolidation of buildings to provide clubs with both allocated space and shared use areas, in order to reduce the number of buildings on site and maximise field space. Further, the provision of high quality lighting and irrigation systems can extend the use of field space.

Volunteer Sport Organisations

The rate of volunteering in sport and recreation clubs has been declining for many years. Often, the responsibility for running clubs falls to one or two key personnel. To address this issue, there is a move toward amalgamations, with multi-sport clubs becoming more common. In other cases, organisations may become aligned to larger licensed clubs that take over some or all of the volunteers’ roles as well as asset management responsibilities.

Some “professionalisation” of clubs is also likely to take place with volunteer positions attracting a basic remuneration. The commercial sector will also displace some clubs by offering competitions that allow participants to compete without any requirements to undertake other duties (e.g. umpiring or canteen duty).

Council

Much of the success of co-location comes down to Council’s capacity to manage and enforce the conditions of use agreements between clubs. Clear communication and strong leadership by Council will provide clubs with clear direction and an understanding of their responsibility and access rights.

Education Facilities

There is potential for better utilisation of existing facilities within education facilities subject to memoranda of understanding (MOU) being implemented between individual education facilities and a sport and recreation group. Similarly, Council may be able to enter an MOU in regard to the community members having access to education facilities. This may cover specialised facilities, buildings and open space areas. This is a proactive strategy that would assist in the funding and ongoing maintenance of education facilities.

Sporting Codes

It is evident in both the trends and local survey data, that within reason, the community will travel to quality sporting facilities to participate in their chosen code. Subsequently, it is not necessary to provide a large number of small sporting facilities. The preference is for Council to invest its limited funds in a number of high-quality facilities, of suitable size that can be utilised by a number of codes or clubs.

On the other hand, co-location for the sake of co-locating is not desirable. A good example of this is the over-marking of court surfaces (both indoor and outdoor) with lines for codes that rarely play or have no formal competition i.e. courts being marked for netball, basketball, volleyball and badminton (when not all four sports are active).
Optimal use of a facility does not necessarily mean that every facility needs to have multiple users/sports. For instance, a purpose-built football (soccer) facility may be very heavily used year-round if it hosts both in-season and out-of-season fixtures (e.g. winter and summer season competitions).

There is a common misconception that cricket and AFL are most compatible due to the size and shape of the oval. However, the differing turf maintenance requirements and intensity of use, coupled with the extension of playing seasons cretces conflict between the two codes. Rather, cricket best locates with rectangular field sports with the wicket located between fields.

Sports using rectangular fields can co-locate where there is sufficient field space for all to meet training and competition requirements.

The best scenario for multi-sport complexes (if space permits) is to provide each code with their own fields. Whilst this may be desirable, it is not regularly possible, nor is it resource or cost effective.

Another scenario (if space permits), is to have an allocated match field that can be used by all teams when they host regional fixtures, finals or state level games/show-games, with adequate additional fields to meet club needs. This main field would have the higher order supporting infrastructure including grandstand/spectator seating, large canteen/kiosk and immediate bus access for travelling teams.

All co-locating clubs require their fields and facilities to have a higher level of maintenance, higher order supporting infrastructure (i.e. lit fields, suitable field drainage, as well as coordination/management of field use).

An example of cricket and rectangular field sports co-locating
6.6 Our Vision for Open Space

**Vision**

The vision sets the desired scene for open space development. It reflects the community's aspirations (a reflection of the information assembled in the Central Highlands Community Plan 2022) and Council's corporate vision. The vision for the open space network for the Central Highlands is to ensure that:

“Our open space network will offer an attractive and diverse range of opportunities and settings that reflect the demands of our local communities”

The Central Highlands has a good supply of open space, varying from urban recreation parks to infrastructure-based specialised sports centres. These open spaces provide a diversity of options and settings for recreation and sport.

The provision of open space is concentrated in urban centres. They are generally well used spaces and provide important recreation areas for both residents and visitors alike.

This section provides information on the open space context, the classification system applied to different types of open spaces and details the vision for open space. This information provides the framework for the strategies described in further sections of this Plan.

*Photos: Blackwater all-abilities playground, Tieri Town Square, Emerald Botanic Gardens, Alan McIndoe Park, Capella Geopark*
6.7 Guiding Principles

Following on from the vision for the open space network, the following principles are seen as the fundamental guiding components for the network at a strategic level. Many of these reflect the themes stated in the Central Highlands Community Plan 2022:

1. our communities have access to a range of active open spaces, sport and recreation facilities
2. our parks are attractive and desirable places for people to enjoy regardless of age and ability
3. fun, safe and well-located facilities are provided
4. towns are designed with enhanced greenspace and strong connections to the natural environment
5. we offer a connected open space network that ensures that all new and (where possible) all existing recreation and open space facilities can be safely and conveniently accessed by existing and potential users
6. we provide linked open spaces and communities through the consideration of recreation corridors and active transport (particularly pedestrian-focused) options
7. community safety principles are incorporated into planning and design (in accord with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design guidelines (CPTED))
8. multiple use of open space is encouraged to provide cost-effective options for Council to maintain while still providing community health and well-being benefits
9. equitable access is achieved across the local government area, considering differing community values and expectations
10. consideration of different social and demographic profiles is given to the location, design and implementation of open space, now and in the future
11. people have diversity and choice within the open space network leading to a variety of vibrant opportunities
12. a sustainable open space network that incorporates quadruple bottom line reporting considers social, environmental, economic and governance costs and benefits to ensure an affordable and quality open space network
13. a network that considers the history and character of places and spaces and incorporates these themes into open space design
14. a well-planned open space network is developed ensuring that the provision of recreation and open space opportunities accurately reflect current community needs and Council resource constraints. It is important to ensure that planning decisions made today do not jeopardise the decision-making of the future. As such, a proactive approach to open space planning will be employed.

Please note: the list numbers above for the Guiding Principles is not prioritised.
6.8 Open Space Types

Recreation Parks:

Vicki Peters and Centenary Parks, Emerald

Sportsgrounds and Courts:

Tieri Oval No. 1 and Rolleston Community Oval

Specialised Sport and Recreation Facilities:

Emerald Driver Training and Motorsport Complex and Bridgeman Park Capella

Other Open Space:

Emerald stormwater and Mackenzie Park (War Memorial) Duaringa

This section provides background information relating to different open space types in the Central Highlands. The open space types reflect the classification framework previously outlined.

The key open space types found on the following pages include:

- local, district and regional recreation parks
- district and regional sportsgrounds and courts
- specialised sport and recreation facilities
- recreation corridors
- other open spaces including amenity and utility land.

Detailed information is provided for each open space type including:

- general description
- open space intent
- desired standards of service
- design considerations
- image palette
- conceptual illustrations.
Tieri Tennis - Corbeen Sports Area
### 6.8.1 Recreation Park Local

**Description and Intent**

Local recreation parks provide a limited range of recreational opportunities for local residents. These parks contain minimal infrastructure for recreational use, however, when well-positioned can offer a number of community benefits.

Local recreation parks are intended to be small parcels of land that offer residents a supplementary open space to complement their backyards. They are likely to attract users from a small catchment area and generally cater for short visits by individuals or small groups. An example of this type of park in the Central Highlands Regional Council area is Lions Park in Bluff.

Local recreation parks are present in tiers one and two. The local recreation provision in Tier Three and Four towns is in the form of a district recreation park.

**Standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land</strong></td>
<td>Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement</td>
<td>0.5ha/1,000 population for Tier One and Two places. For Tier Three and Four places see the provision for Recreation Parks District.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong></td>
<td>Distance between urban residents and park (metres)</td>
<td>400m in Tier One places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>500m in Tier Two places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land characteristics</strong></td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>0.5ha of usable space for stand-alone local parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>The preferred shape for a park is square to rectangular with the sides no greater than 2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road frontage</td>
<td>30 - 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gradient</td>
<td>Maximum grade of 1:10 for 80% of the area of the park (i.e. a maximum of 20% of the land may have a greater grade than 1:10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preferred flood immunity</td>
<td>15% of total area to be above Q105 and free of hazards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No significant structural works are to occur in designated medium or high flood risk areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embellishments</strong></td>
<td>Recreation activity area</td>
<td>Mix of 3 activity options ($16,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pedestrian movement</td>
<td>Pedestrian pathway to activity areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Bollard fencing to perimeter ($13,200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fencing around park areas may be considered for public safety near embellishments (e.g. toddler’s play area) and/or in proximity to major road networks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>Park trees (10) ($2,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park furniture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ bike rack (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ small park sign (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ water bubbler (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ bench seats (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ picnic table (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ bins (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ ($12,450)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Size establishment</td>
<td>Basic earthworks for the park ($4,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indicative embellishment cost</td>
<td>$48,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: all costs included in the standards tables for park types are indicative only.
- Design Considerations

Below is a list of elements that should be considered when designing/developing a local recreation park:

☐ park is to be within easy walking distance to most residents
☐ recreation facilities to be clustered in one activity area, ideally located under natural shade
☐ activity area could include facilities such as:
  - basic toddler play (spring toy, slide and swing)
  - rebound wall
  - dog off-leash area with basic dog agility equipment (such as ramps and totem poles)
  - multi-functional gazebos (e.g. may encourage small group to play cards in the park regularly)
  - small path circuit with basic, static, exercise equipment
  - flat kick-about area
  - link to surrounding footpath (if relevant)
☐ picnic and seats to be located where they can oversee the activity area (under a shady tree where possible), along the internal path
☐ it should be easy to see the majority of the park from adjacent properties and from the road
☐ internal paths to connect to on-road verge pathway system and connect to the key activity area in the park. If the park can act as a short cut for pedestrians it may also encourage them to stop and utilise these local park facilities
☐ embellishments in the parks complement those in nearby parks (increasing the range of facilities available to nearby residents)
☐ design and embellishments of parks reflect the demographic desires of the local catchment
☐ landscape edge treatments in the form of screening shrubs will improve the aesthetics of the park, soften the edges and provide some buffering to nearby residents. The selection and placement of plantings needs to be mindful of CPTED concepts.

It is important not to over-emphasise local recreation parks with infrastructure that the community could find at home i.e. barbecues and amenities.
### 6.8.2 Recreation Park District

#### Description and Intent

Larger sized parks (generally 2ha-5ha) providing a range of facilities and activity spaces for recreation. These parks have facilities to cater for large groups and are appealing to a wide range of users.

District recreation parks can service several suburbs or a whole town depending on population density, and are fairly well-known destinations for those people living within their catchment. Ideally, district recreation parks are located near social infrastructure such as schools, community centres, halls etc.

These parks are particularly important in smaller communities (Tier Three and Four where population is generally less than 1,000) as they function as the town feature park. As such, they are often the location for community celebrations and events. In the instance of Tier Three and Four places, a town park is to be of equal embellishment to a district recreation park.

Where opportunities exist, district parks can be located adjacent to, or as a part of, a district sports park to maximise the space available (i.e. opportunity for Morton Park). This also enables them to become significant social hubs, which can be strengthened further, should they be located near the town’s school.

#### Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land</strong></td>
<td>Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement</td>
<td>0.4ha/1,000 for Tier One and Two places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong></td>
<td>Park catchment (metres)</td>
<td>1,000m for Tier One and Two places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provision of one district recreation park in a central location in Tier Three places</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land characteristics</strong></td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>2ha of usable space for Tier One and Two places (note: most district parks are 2ha+), with Tier Three and Four 1ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>The preferred shape for a park is square to rectangular with the sides no greater than 2:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road frontage</td>
<td>30 - 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage on a collector road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gradient</td>
<td>Average grade of 1:10 for 30% of the area of the park. To facilitate wheelchair access to parks, areas with a grade of 1:14 will also be provided, where possible. Variable topography is satisfactory for the remaining area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preferred flood immunity</td>
<td>At least 25% of total area to be above Q50 with main activity areas above Q105. No significant structural works are to occur in designated medium or high flood risk areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embellishments</strong></td>
<td>Recreation activity area</td>
<td>Mix of 6 to 10 activity options in clusters. Activity options to attract a range of age cohorts ($265,610)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Bollard fencing to perimeter ($27,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fencing around playgrounds may be considered where these are located near to roads</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicular and pedestrian movement</td>
<td>☐ internal road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ car parking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ pedestrian pathway to activity areas ($265,050)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buildings</strong></td>
<td>Amenity block ($70,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Landscaping</strong></td>
<td>☐ park trees (40)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ irrigated garden beds (300m²) ($26,500)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ integration with natural bushland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Park furniture</strong></td>
<td>☐ park lighting (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ bike rack (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ large park sign (1) and small park sign (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ water bubblers (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ bench seats (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ picnic tables (3) and picnic shelters (with table/chairs) (1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ barbecues (2), bins (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ shade structure (108m²) ($108,550)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Site establishment</strong></td>
<td>Basic earthworks for the park ($20,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicative embellishment cost</strong></td>
<td>$773,710</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Design Considerations

Below is a list of elements that should be considered when designing/developing a district recreation park:

- design and embellishments of parks should reflect a broad demographics group (i.e., there should be something for all ages and all abilities)
- ideally, one main activity node exists which has clusters of activities for different age groups (i.e., park equipment designed for teenagers to be together, and near to the activity node for 8-12 years old age group). This helps separate the age cohorts but keeps all activities in one larger area so carers are able to monitor the activities
- activity area could include facilities (in addition to those listed in the local recreation park typology) including:
  - skate park
  - climbing structure
  - outdoor table tennis
  - bike activity track (learn-to-cycle facility)
  - moveable outdoor exercise stations (such as exercise bikes, rowing machines, elliptical trainers)
  - all-abilities play (design and layout should be cognisant of integrating all of the play facilities (abled and physically challenged) together to provide social inclusion and integration of all abilities)
- non-standard embellishments to consider are:
  - gazebos for larger groups (10+ people)
  - unisex toilets
  - grouped picnicking facilities (cluster of 2 barbecues and 4 picnic tables)
- activity area to be ideally located under natural shade, however, may be supplemented by artificial shade
- there should be clear sight-lines into the park from nearby road and other land uses, especially the main activity area
- picnic areas located where they oversee the activity area
- embellishments in the parks could be themed
- if there are multiple district recreation parks in the same town (tier one) each should have a different range of recreation opportunities
- amenities to be near road and active area for surveillance
- pathways link areas within the park and externally
- off-road car parking is required, however, could be located near the road (or nose-in parking at the road) to minimise its visual impact (and cost of development) on the recreation function of the park
- park to suitably cater for visitor use.

Central Highlands Regional Council Open Space and Recreation Plan
6.8.3 Recreation Park Regional

Description and Intent

Major recreation parks provide a wide variety of opportunities to a broad cross-section of the Region’s population and visitors. These parks are generally large in size, embellished for recreation, well-known amongst residents and are major destinations/drawcards. An example of this type of park in the Council area is the Botanic Gardens located along the banks of the Nogoa River in Emerald.

People are usually content spending several (4+) hours in these parks. Regional recreation parks offer unique experiences. They are often used to host large community events such as carols in the park, Australia Day celebrations and other festivals. Regional recreation parks offer exciting and no cost activities for residents and visitors.

Regional recreation parks are provided within Tier One towns only.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on a hectare/1,000 people</td>
<td>0.6ha/1,000 provision in Tier One towns only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park catchment</td>
<td>Central Highlands Region (Local government area)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land characteristics</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>6ha of usable space (note: most district parks are 10ha+)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>Square to rectangular with the sides no greater than 2:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road frontage</td>
<td>30 - 50% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage on a collector road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gradient</td>
<td>Average grade of 1:20 for main use areas, 1:50 for kick-about area, and variable topography for remainder</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preferred flood immunity</td>
<td>At least 50% of total area above Q50 with main activity areas above Q100 and free of hazards. No significant structural works are to occur in designated medium or high flood risk areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Embellishments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation activity area</td>
<td>Mix of 12 or more, as required, dispersed across well defined nodes of activity focus. Activity options to attract a range of age-cohorts ($832,650)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Post and rail fencing to perimeter ($294,000)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular and pedestrian movement</td>
<td>□ internal road □ car parking (100 car parks) □ pedestrian pathway to activity areas (2,790m2) ($641,400)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>Amenity blocks ($140,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>□ park trees (200)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ irrigated garden beds (4,000m2) ($270,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ integration of natural bushland</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park furniture</td>
<td>□ park lighting (12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ bike racks (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ large park signs (3) and small park signs (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ water bubblers (6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ bench seats (12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ picnic tables (3) and picnic shelters (with table/chairs) (4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ large picnic nodes (includes barbecues, picnic tables and hard structure) (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ bins (8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ shade structure (216m2) ($347,100)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site establishment</td>
<td>Basic earthworks for 6ha of the park ($120,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public art</td>
<td>As determined locally appropriate ($100,000)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative embellishment cost</td>
<td>$2,745,150 (PIP embellishment total $2,645,150)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

potential connection to natural area (river or forest) traditional assets promenades, such as hills some undeveloped spaces should exist, these include treed areas natural areas provide different opportunities such as natural play and water activities
Design Considerations

Below is a list of elements that should be considered when designing/developing a regional recreation park:

- Master plan of the park is vital. This is likely to include a long-term vision that can take many years to achieve (potentially 10-15 years). The master plan should be staged so that it can be rolled out as demand is generated (and as resources allow).
- Community input into the design of the park should occur (at master plan stage and as changes occur). This is important as the community will have specific thoughts and concerns regarding this level of park design must consider all age groups, people of all abilities and different ethnicities.
- Detailed design is often required for specific elements.
- Multiple activity nodes may exist, however, these nodes will be unique and not replicated within the park and will add to the overall quality and attractiveness of the park (complementary areas that also contrast other park opportunities).
- Potential to have some low-key commercial activity such as kiosks, cafes, museums.
- Potential to have an array of buildings that offer some community service such as a nursery offering free street trees, environmental education centres, community training rooms, libraries etc.
- Park to be located where people can access easily.
- Park should preferably have a variety of settings from natural areas to highly-embellishment activity areas.
- Incorporate a high-level of landscape design, (this could extend to including botanic gardens).
- Consider including a special drawcard element such as a nature centre or cafe.
- Have some undeveloped areas for kids to kick about and community gatherings.
- Include interpretive signage, not only about the park but also of the local area (for residents and tourists).
- In addition to those listed in the local and district recreation park types, significant activity areas could include facilities such as:
  - Free water-play
  - Large skate facilities
  - Large climbing structures
  - Rock climbing equipment
  - Variety of pathways and circuits, potentially with different treatments to help the user to navigate throughout the site
  - All abilities play (essential)
  - Amphitheatre
  - Lookouts
- Non-standard embellishments to consider are:
  - Gazebos for larger groups (20+ people)
  - Areas for weddings, birthday parties or private park celebrations
  - Multiple toilets located in different areas (depending on the size of the park and the topography of the land)
  - Clusters of picnic facilities.
6.8.4 Sportsgrounds and Courts District

Description and Intent

District sportsgrounds and courts are suitable for local (and some regional) sporting fixtures. The facilities are of a good standard but may not necessarily have the required playing surface or ancillary infrastructure of a regional-level facility nor comply with State-regulations for the sport. An example of this type of park is the Springsure Showgrounds.

These facilities often have only one or two regular user groups (potentially sharing the site between summer and winter competition), or one higher-level user. This is not the case in Tier Three towns, where a number of users utilise the facility. These facilities should be designed with an adaptive and flexible approach, to accommodate possible future changes in sporting disciplines and clubs. Club needs or even sporting user groups may change as sporting trends, club finances/growth/decline and community demographics change over time within the area.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement</td>
<td>0.7ha/1,000 in Tier One and Tier Two places. In Tier Three, provision is one district sportsground per place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Distance between residents and park (metres)</td>
<td>Generally a 5 minute drive from most residences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land characteristics</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Minimum of 3ha (note: most district sportsgrounds and courts are 5ha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>To maximise the area available for playing fields, a square or rectangular shape is considered most efficient. Fields and courts to be as close to a north/south configuration as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road frontage</td>
<td>Approximately 25% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gradient</td>
<td>1:80 for all playing surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preferred flood immunity</td>
<td>At least 99% of land above Q20, with fields and courts above Q50. Facilities to be above Q105. No significant structural works are to occur in designated medium or high flood risk areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embellishments</td>
<td>Recreation activity area</td>
<td>Provision of one activity option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Post and rail fencing to perimeter ($240,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicular and pedestrian movement</td>
<td>Fencing around playgrounds may be considered where these are located near to roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>Clubhouse (estimated 450m²) (not to be charged to PIP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sports field development</td>
<td>Amenity block ($712,500)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park furniture</td>
<td>Field development (minor earthworks, drainage, ground treatment, top dressing and irrigation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site establishment</td>
<td>Field lighting (training standard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indicative embellishment cost</td>
<td>Spectator seating (long bench seats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>($582,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bike rack (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small park signs (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bins (2) ($7,800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Basic earthworks for 3ha ($60,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicative embellishment cost $1,731,600 (PIP embellishment cost $1,169,100)
Design Considerations

Below is a list of elements that should be considered when designing/developing district sportsgrounds and courts:

- Undertake a site master plan to set the direction for the facility
- Ensure an internal path network to allow for connections within and to land adjacent to the park (that is, the pathway system should tie into the street path system)
- Maximise trees and natural shade around fields
- Long benches and spectator areas should be placed under shade trees where possible. Shaded spectator grass mounds can also provide good viewing areas
- Hard surfaces should be minimised by developing the minimum number of sealed parking bays, and providing turf/unsealed over/low parking (for bigger spectator games, if required)
- Consideration to be made regarding noise and light spillage with regards to its impact on surrounding land uses
- All field orientation to be north/south (or as close to as possible)
- Park to include clubhouse with basic infrastructure that is suitable for a variety of uses. Clubhouse to be located on western side, on halfway line, of main field where possible. Internal spaces to include:
  - changerooms
  - canteen
  - office and storage (suitable for a variety of uses but only require basic infrastructure)
- Design to allow for multiple current and future uses of the open space
- Design consideration to allow for potential alternative events and temporary uses (circuses, festivals, event registration areas, parades etc.)
- Consider co-locating with local/district park - especially in smaller communities to maximise land efficiencies. This will also allow the land to be utilised for a range of different purposes (e.g. civic functions).
6.8.5 Sportsgrounds and Courts Regional

Description and Intent

Regional sports facilities could comfortably host regional (or potentially State) competitions. Factors such as number and quality of playing surface, amenities and canteen availability, and lighting standards (where lights are provided) have been considered. An example of this type of park in the Council area is the Hunter Street Sporting Complex in Blackwater.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement</td>
<td>1ha/1,000 in tier one places only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Distance between residents and park (metres)</td>
<td>Generally, one hour drive from most residences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land characteristics</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Minimum of 6ha (however, it is desired that regional sport parks be 10ha+ for maximum efficiency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>To maximise the area available for playing fields, a square or rectangular shape is considered most efficient. Fields and courts to be as close to a north/south configuration as possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road frontage</td>
<td>Approximately 25% of the park perimeter to have direct road frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gradient</td>
<td>Laser levelling to a maximum gradient of 1:100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Preferred flood immunity</td>
<td>At least 90% of land above Q20, with fields and courts above Q50. Built facilities to be above Q105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Embellishments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recreational activity area</th>
<th>Basic play to be provided to complement sports use ($26,500)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Post and rail fencing to perimeter ($420,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular and pedestrian movement</td>
<td>internal roads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>car parking (100 car parks sealed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pedestrian pathways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($514,200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>clubhouse (estimated 1,100m²) (can not be charges in PIP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>amenity block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($1,525,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports field development</td>
<td>field development (minor earthworks, drainage, ground treatment, top dressing and irrigation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>field lighting (competition standard) (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>spectator seating (long bench seats)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($1,540,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park furniture</td>
<td>park lighting (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bike racks (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>small park signs (2)and large park sign (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>shade structures (108m²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>water bubblers (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bench seating (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bins (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($74,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site establishment</td>
<td>basic earthworks for 6ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>park trees and landscaping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>($130,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicative embellishment cost</td>
<td>$4,230,100 (PIP embellishments $2,855,100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Design Considerations

Below is a list of elements that should be considered when designing/developing regional sportsgrounds and courts:

- undertake a master plan for the site to ensure the appropriate development of the site in line with the established direction
- internal path network to allow for connections within and to land adjacent to the park (i.e. pathway system should tie into the street path system). Paths to allow for all-ability access
- maximise trees and natural shade around fields
- long benches and spectator areas should be placed under shade trees where possible. Shaded spectator grass mounds can also provide good viewing areas in addition to built grandstands
- hard surfaces should be minimised by developing the minimum number of sealed parking bays, and providing turf/unsealed shaded overflow parking (for bigger games and events)
- internal road and parking layout to accommodate bus parking, drop-off and turn around
- orientation and location of sports lighting (seek advice from sports bodies for regulations). Consideration to be made regarding noise and light spillage with regards to its impact on surrounding land uses
- field and court orientation to be north/south (or as close to as possible)
- provision of ample storage. This should be located near the clubhouse and should form one single large shed or preferably be combined into clubhouse design to reduce built structures within the open space
- clubhouse to be of significant size and offer flexibility in design to cater for a range of uses (consider beyond those sports anticipated to use the site). Clubhouse to be located on western side, on halfway line, of main field where possible. Internal spaces to include:
  - storage
  - canteen
  - multiple change rooms
  - canteen
  - offices
  - versatile function/activity space
  - gym
  - medical rooms
- recreation/activity area to consider the users of sports when designing nodes (e.g. play for spectators/children or activities that could be used for training (exercise circuit)). These should ideally be clustered together and located under natural shade (where possible)
- potential complementary commercial opportunities could be considered at the park (physiotherapy, personal trainers, sports house etc.)
- provision of adequate signage especially within large, multiple use regional sports parks (e.g. directional and information signs)
- create additional landscape amenities such as entry planting, feature landscaping, or earth mounds to increase visual amenity.
6.8.6 Specialised Sport and Recreation Facilities

Description and Intent

Parks provided for sporting activities where:
☐ the nature of the sport precludes the easy transfer of use to an alternative sport
☐ the nature of the activity precludes free unrestricted access to members of the public
☐ or where the land and facility requirements result in provision of high level provision of sport (e.g. Capella Covered Arena, and Emerald Go Kart Track).

Specialised sports include:
☐ motorcross/motorcycling
☐ equestrian
☐ golf
☐ shooting
☐ car racing
☐ model aeroplanes
☐ lawn bowls
☐ croquet
☐ field archery/bow hunting

Standards and Design Considerations

It is not possible to provide standards for this open space type as each activity has many different influencing factors. However, the following list has been developed as a starting point of matters that should be considered:

☐ potential longevity of the sport at the site - will urban encroachment push the sport out in 20-30 years? If so, can a protection mechanism be put in place (e.g. regulations through the proposed Planning Scheme)
☐ consider community demand but also check with regional, state, and potentially national sporting associations
☐ sporting bodies also may have specific standards in terms of land, siting, and embellishments required. These bodies may also be able to assist in funding the initiatives
☐ often require a feasibility study in the first instance, and most likely a detailed master plan (these two requirements are often the key to external funding but also provide sufficient background information to ensure appropriate research is undertaken)
☐ consider the needs (and likely impacts) of hosting regional, state and national events. These often have considerable tourism and economic benefits to the region but also require suitable facilities and ancillary support infrastructure
☐ consider potential negative impact on the environment and amenity of surrounding land uses.
6.8.7 Aquatic Facilities

Description and Intent

Aquatic facilities can be publicly- or commercially-owned and managed. These can either be outdoor (uncovered) facilities, indoor aquatic facilities or a mix of both.

Aquatic facilities are very important community assets as they are often social meeting places as well as venues for sport and (swimming) education.

Standards

Aquatic facilities could be considered the same as specialised sport where it is difficult to apply a standards approach as consideration must be given to:

- urban form
- access to natural water facilities
- nearest like facility
- competing aquatic opportunities, including those located at education institutions
- community demand
- social profile and demographics
- topography and geographic influences.

Additionally, Council should also consider its ability to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of the aquatic facility.

Design Considerations

Some elements that should be considered when designing/developing new public aquatic facilities include:

- proximity to local schools is seen as very important. Schools are often the most regular user group of community pools, and connect the children with water sports. To save costs, it is ideal that as many schools (especially primary schools) are within walking distance to community pools (and safe access can be provided)
- clear links with the active transport network
- the quality of the land is important, it is not ideal for pools to be built on unstable land (e.g. black soil, land fill sites or on land with underground mining) that can lead to unnecessary ongoing (and often major) costs
- consider the flood immunity of the land, as this too can lead to significant and unnecessary ongoing costs
- potential to co-locate with other sport, community infrastructure or retail hubs can provide cross-benefits in terms of patronage but also with shared ancillary infrastructure such as car parking, bike racks etc
- consider potential negative impact on the environment and amenity of surrounding land uses

- commercially viable elements including: learn-to-swim, swim shop, gymnasium, beach volleyball, mini putt-putt, child-minding and cafes
- consider demographics of area (now and projected) to help decide pool configuration and key elements, these may include:
  - versatility of pool areas for a variety of water activities (water polo, aqua aerobics, triathlon squads etc)
  - splash and wave pools
  - learn-to-swim and toddler pools
  - hydrotherapy pools (with ramps and lifting equipment)
  - competition swimming pools (50m/25m) with diving blocks
  - spectator facilities including grandstands
  - facilities for less-abled people including ramps into water areas
  - sun safe facilities including shade structures and treed areas
  - water play area
  - dry play areas

- building design should include:
  - first aid rooms
  - change facilities including showers and lockers
  - significant storage areas and plant room
  - fenced outdoor areas.
6.8.8 Indoor Sport

Description and Park Intent

Indoor sport and recreation centres primarily provide space and ancillary facilities for playing indoor sports. Indoor sports are facilities with a high level of built form required to undertake the activity. Examples include indoor courts, gymnasiums and squash centres.

Standards

Indoor sport facilities could be considered the same as specialised sport and aquatic facilities where it is difficult to apply a standards approach as consideration must be given to:

- urban form
- nearest like facility including indoor sport facilities at local schools
- community demand (including projected population change)
- social profile and demographics.

Design Considerations

Some elements that should be considered when designing/developing new indoor sports facilities include:

- a feasibility study and master plan are considered essential in planning phases
- ideally create space that is versatile to a number of uses. To achieve this it is often best to build to the largest court size requirement (netball)
- clear links with the active transport network
- have the most possible storage that can be afforded
- consider siting to take advantage of natural breezes as indoor sports centres can often be hot and expensive to air condition
- it is not necessary to mark all sports lines on the playing surface as this often makes it difficult for players and spectators to navigate the lining system (and to attract higher-level carnivals)
- consider facilities including grandstands and sufficient run-off space for courts
- consider potential negative impact on the environment and amenity of surrounding land uses.
6.8.9 Recreation Corridors

Description and Intent

These linear corridors provide embellished linkages that connect recreation facilities or open spaces, residences, community infrastructure, commercial areas or could form a circuit. The land contains infrastructure to facilitate recreation use, including a formed path and offers an attractive recreation setting.

Linear corridors can create a green web across communities. The purpose is to concentrate on the land-based components of the web, the parts that offer off-road walking/cycling experiences. Much of this component of the network is located along drainage corridors and other easements (rail, telecommunications) and, therefore, the land usually has dual-functionality as utility land.

This open space type can lead to many health benefits. Walking and cycling continue to be the most preferred physical activity options for all areas of Australia, with no trend to support a shift in this fact. Recreation corridors can encourage more (off road and tree lined) walking, cycling and other wheel-based movement opportunities and experiences, should the facilities be well-designed, well-located and promoted.

Consideration must be given to where people live and where they are most likely going to walk and/or cycle. Linking residential areas to retail/commercial hubs and social hubs (schools, sporting facilities, shops, pools etc.) can provide important green pedestrian and cycle corridors. It is also beneficial to create a series of circuits rather than up-and-back paths. A number of interconnecting circuits can offer an array of options for users of different abilities, from short, easy circuits to longer and more-challenging ones.

Recreation corridors must link with the on-road path network, however, it is recommended that Council consider developing ‘park streets’ where possible. The park street concept takes advantage of wide-country streets that have sufficient space to accommodate a pedestrian path (and other park embellishments). This concept should be further explored on an individual town and street basis.

Where possible, opportunities may also exist to utilise riparian corridors as recreation corridors (i.e. Nogoa River and surrounds). Recreation parks may also aid in providing ecological corridors and links for flora and fauna due to the connectivity of land.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>Based on a hectare/1,000 people measurement</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>Distance between residents and park</td>
<td>Not applicable - provision is opportunistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land characteristics</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Average of 6m wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shape</td>
<td>Linear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road frontage</td>
<td>Where possible, road frontage is required for safety and access reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gradient</td>
<td>As flat as possible to encourage walking and cycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flood immunity</td>
<td>Minimal, however to be assessed on a case-by-case basis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embellishments</td>
<td>Recreation Activity Area</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fencing</td>
<td>Bollard fencing along roads, this will vary, however, should average at 300 bollards per kilometre ($36,000/km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicular and pedestrian movement</td>
<td>Pedestrian (shared walk/cycle) pathway at a desired width of 2.2m ($176,000/km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Landscaping</td>
<td>Park trees (8/km) ($2,000/km) Consider opportunities for integration with natural bushland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park furniture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Site establishment</td>
<td>Basic earthworks for 6m wide corridor ($12,000/km)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indicative Embellishment Cost</td>
<td>($241,100/km ($241.10/m)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Design Considerations
Below is a list of elements that should be considered when designing/developing a recreation corridor:

- ensure the corridor is suitable for people of all abilities
- pathway should follow contour lines, to provide as little grade as possible. Grades should preferably not be more than 1:20 at any section of the pathway
- appropriate vehicle access for maintenance is required
- create pathways and routes that connect to destinations (e.g. directly link residential areas to retail nodes and social hubs)
- create circuits within the network (where possible and appropriate)
- ensure the corridors are safe for people to use and provide adequate visibility throughout the park (e.g. clear sightlines through the park, including selecting clear trunk trees and low ground covers that allow visibility). Areas should be lit where appropriate
- encourage different settings and experiences for the recreation corridor, including taking advantage of views and vistas
- create a legible network by
  - creating clear and obvious path connections
  - use of continuous path materials (so pedestrians know they are on the right route)
  - signage, where appropriate
  - use of trees and avenues and tall elements to aid in way-finding and navigation
  - entry statements (can be minimal embellishment such as a totem pole) (so pedestrians know when they are at the route entry or at an exit point). These statements should be of a consistent theme and typography
  - create park areas that provide green webs by creating green tree-lined corridors, thereby creating a natural green off-road alternative route, as well as providing shade and green visual relief
- where paths are located along road verges, create 'park streets' through planting and appropriate park embellishments
- unsightly utility or functional elements such as concrete channels or rear fencing should be softened or screened as much as possible to create an aesthetically pleasing experience
- park embellishments should be robust and vandal resistant
- park design should provide minimal operational maintenance.
“Park Street” verge path, separate bike and walking path with planting in between.

Pathway meanders between residences. Benches placed under trees.

Linear corridor between private residences.

Pathway meanders between residences. Benches placed under trees. Concrete culvert and rear fencing screened by native trees and shrubs.

Linear corridor along concrete culvert.

Local recreation park as a node along the linear recreation corridor. Creek provides attractive feature that the path can run alongside.

Linear corridor within local park.
6.8.10 Amenity Land

Description and Intent
Amenity land is either landscaped areas such as town entrance statements or land that offers some amenity in terms of function such as monument/memorial parks and lookouts. They provide little formal recreation opportunities.

Standards
No standards are suitable for amenity land. It must, however, be noted, that landscaped entrance statements for new developments often attract high maintenance costs, and provide little to no social value.

Design Considerations
The following summarises some of the design aspects for amenity land:
- maximise the views and vistas of the site
- consider navigational signage to the site (often amenity land are located in out of the way areas and additional directional signage is required)
- consider cross-promotion - amenity parks are often attractive spots for tourists and there may be opportunity to promote the Region to this audience
- artwork, sculptures and planting can be informative of history and the local culture and should have meaning when utilised.

6.8.11 Utility Land

Description and Intent
Land that is often owned or maintained by Council's Infrastructure, Assets and Public Facilities Department, however, should not be incorporated into Council's open space network. These parcels could be classified for the following purposes: water bodies, utility infrastructure (e.g., electricity transmission, telecommunications, water and sewerage); waterway or drainage corridors; and, easements that enable or could enable pedestrian access between the road network and other land uses.

Standards
The standards employed for utility land (that may offer some open space function or purpose) will be set by other networks and will require the input of engineers.

Design Considerations
Design elements that should be considered for utility land so that it encourages recreation use include:
- encourage acquisition of additional land to ensure the utility land offers dual-functionality as recreation corridors
- siting of land - consider the possibility to link utility land to create a network of circuits
- consider natural environment and potential to create wildlife habitats (evidence exists that detention basins can be attractive to many bird species. Additionally, linear corridors can offer faunal and human connections)
- undertake a long-term planning philosophy as it is difficult to fix (resurface) in future if poorly planned
- consider the impacts of flooding.
7.0 open space analysis

7.1 Open Space Gap Analysis

The following tables provide a snapshot of the current open space supply within tier one and two places. The open space supply looks at the core (trunk) open space network only, with regional considerations addressed separately from the tiers. A positive number indicates an over supply in provision, with a negative showing a deficiency. This is calculated by multiplying the desired land standards for the park types by the projected population.

DSS Summary Table

The following table provides a summary of the desired standards of service as outlined in section 6.8 of this Plan.

<table>
<thead>
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Population Summary Table

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Tier One Open Space

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Tier Two Open Space

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### Tieri

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### Regional Provision

The calculations for both Regional Recreation Parks and Regional Sportgrounds and Courts are assessed for the whole Region, in line with the catchment the facilities service.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Existing Hectares</th>
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As demonstrated by the above tables, the overall provision of open space within the Central Highlands is adequate for the current population. There are however emerging deficiencies in some places (particularly Emerald and Capella), for the proposed population by 2031.

In addition to these land deficiencies, the place-based considerations (Section 8 of this Plan) outlines any deficiencies in open space types and settings.
7.2 Open Space Distribution

In addition to the analysis of land provision, an analysis of the accessibility of the existing open space network to residents was undertaken to determine any gaps in the network. This analysis considered distance as well as any barriers such as major roads, rivers or other in-accessible land features that could prevent residents from accessing their local park. This analysis was undertaken for the Tier One Town of Emerald, based on the accessibility standard of most residents having access to open space within 400m of their home.

The map below illustrates the areas within Emerald without access to open space within 400m of their residence. There are only minor accessibility deficiencies within the network, as illustrated below.
8.0 place-based considerations

8.1 Arcadia Valley

Demographic and Population Considerations
Arcadia Valley had an estimated population of approximately 463 people in 2011. The area has a higher rate of people aged between 0 and 14, when compared to the State average, yet a lower proportion of 15 to 24 year olds. At 58% of the population, the number of couples with children is significantly higher than the state average.

The high proportion of 0 to 14 year olds has impacts on the current provision of open space including recreation opportunities.

Current Provision
Arcadia Valley State School is the hub of Arcadia Valley. The School provides the sport and recreation facilities for the local area, as well as the community hall.

Open Space - Recreation
There are two main playgrounds at the School, catering for both young and older children. The school encourages of after hour use of the grounds by the community.

Open Space - Sport
The School has two lit, hard court tennis courts and extensive field space. The tennis courts are well maintained and have regular use. Courts are used for other ball games when required by the School. The School has a shaded re-bound wall with re-locatable basketball hoop and netball ring.

Active Transport
Arcadia Valley is a remote rural area with no active transport opportunities or requirements.

Due to the nature of the large properties and dispersed residents, Arcadia Valley is a car-based area with no recommendations for active transport.

Consultation Summary
Household Survey
Four survey responses were received from Arcadia Valley. Given its remote nature, not surprisingly respondents noted the limited facilities available. However, respondents were pleased with the provision of tennis facilities at the local school.

School Visit
The Arcadia Valley State School currently has five students enrolled, with the oldest child in Year Three. There are no local opportunities to participate in club sports due to the small population, with local children travelling to Injune and Roma to play school sport.

Future Directions
- The Arcadia Valley State School is the hub of the community - catering for community open space, sport and recreation opportunities.

Based on the existing and projected population, it is recommended that Council continue to support the School in the maintenance and provision of sport and recreation for the Arcadia Valley community.

Background Research

Literature Review
Central Highlands 2022 – Survey Report

The survey results highlight that the limited sport and recreation facilities based at the School are highly valued by the community. The survey noted the community's efforts in working together to fund and build the recreation hall and tennis courts.

Additionally, the community work hard at fundraising to support the maintenance and operational costs of their few community, sport and recreation assets.

Key challenges for Arcadia Valley relate to the uncertainty around the future of the area, given the declining population and viability of agriculture with continued coal and gas exploration.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

In line with the survey results, attendees at the community meeting indicated the importance of the School as the hub of the Arcadia Valley.

Of note within the short-term priorities was maintaining the community hall and attracting and retaining school teachers.
Images from the Arcadia Valley State School
Background Research

Literature Review

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The Bauhinia community values their hall, sporting complex, school cricket fields and sporting facilities, horse sports activities (such as campdrafts, pony club and polocrosse), the upkeep of the sporting complex, and the tennis courts and club.

The short-term priorities for the community include an upgrade of the sporting complex, as well as maintenance of tennis courts and improvement of parks and tourist stops. The long-term priorities identified are to improve the town hall and the sports facilities.

Central Highlands 2022 - Meeting Summary

The community meeting outcomes mirror the survey outcomes in that the community highly value the community hall, the school, sporting complex, and that there is a dedicated Council employee to assist with maintenance.

Demographic and Population Considerations

Bauhinia has an estimated current population of approximately 320 people. Almost a third of the population is aged between 25 and 44.

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation

Bauhinia has a good provision of passive recreation, suitable for its small population. There are modern playground facilities at the sporting complex. There is also an older playground located at the Community Hall.

Open Space - Sport

Bauhinia Sports Complex

The Bauhinia Sports Complex is a large facility focussed on equestrian uses. This Sports Complex is home to a number of clubs including polocrosse, campdraft, pony club and the stock horse association. The complex is well-used.

Tennis Courts

There are two lic. tennis hard courts adjoining the community hall.

School Facilities

The school has an undercover multi-court facility and two cricket fields, with unused clubhouse.

Active Transport

Bauhinia is a small township comprised of the state school, community hall and library, tennis courts, and the sports complex.

Due to the nature of the large properties and dispersed residents, it is a car-based town with no recommendations for active transport.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey

Only one survey was received from Bauhinia. The response indicated the need for improved walking opportunities, play equipment and shade.

Community Meeting

Key issues raised at the community meeting include:

- additional Council maintenance is required of the town's parks and gardens, as the Bauhinia-based officer is only responsible for mowing
- support is needed in the areas of slashing, pruning and mulching of garden beds, and regular irrigation of fields
- a cricket club formerly operated at the school grounds, until the club folded several years ago.

Future Directions

- with a recent decline in population, the future direction for Bauhinia needs to be focused on maintaining current facilities, and assisting the community with maintenance and funding for minor improvements
- the clubs of the Bauhinia Sports Complex require assistance from Council in regularly maintaining the grounds – slashing and watering of fields prior to events, as well as assistance during large events with rubbish collection and provision of portable toilets
- there is a need for additional storage at the sporting complex
- a long-term solution to permanent toilets may also be considered at the Bauhinia Sports Complex
- the clubs are responsible for their own electricity expenses and are seeking funding/grant for solar panels to ease the ongoing cost of electricity
- the Bauhinia Sports Complex requires additional natural shade and the playground needs its shade sail replaced
- the playground at the community hall needs to be upgraded.

Sport and Recreation Likes

All of the students live on large properties and are happy riding bikes, motorbikes, and "pigging" at home or at a friend's property.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

The students raised their interest in a skate/bmx track, somewhere to swim and to play football (soccer). While tennis was also raised, it is noted that the facilities exist, however, there are no coaching programs or competitions available.
Please note - Bauhinia has no current or proposed active transport needs
place-based considerations

8.3 Blackwater

Background Research

Literature Review

Central Highlands 2022 – Survey Report

The survey results highlight that the community appreciates the wide range of sporting opportunities currently available within Blackwater. Additionally, the quality of most of the sport facilities was also noted.

Further, the community acknowledges the benefits of having a number of well-maintained recreation and play opportunities close to residential areas.

Key challenges include addressing the impact of shift workers on formal sport participation and volunteering, an improved skate facility and the enhanced maintenance of public toilets.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

Similar to the survey results, attendees at the community meeting indicated the community valued the range of sport and recreation opportunities available.

Short-term priorities identified included enhancements at the Bedford Weir, town beautification through street tree planting, continued park upgrades and the formalisation of a fitness circuit.

Blackwater Urban Development Area, Open Space and Townscape Strategy

As an identified Priority Development Area by the Queensland Government, Economic Development have responsibility for planning and approvals within identified areas of Blackwater.

As part of this responsibility, the then ULDA commissioned the development of the Open Space and Townscape Strategy (2010). The Strategy provides details on community improvement projects focussed on the public realm.

Blackwater Sports Complex Master Plan Review 2007 (Hunter Street)

The document reviews the 2004 Master Plan for the Blackwater Sports Complex, in order to determine and confirm a direction for the development of the Complex over the next three to five years for the benefit of all user groups and the community.

Council, through the master plan, determined that the Complex should be upgraded to improve the efficiency of the facilities and their ongoing maintenance, as well as to provide higher-quality sporting facilities.

Blackwater Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan 2012

This Plan builds on the existing planning for Blackwater’s open space and focuses on three sites: Hunter Street Sporting Complex, the Blackwater youth space, and the Pony Club and Active Riders facility.

The Plan provides recommendations for improvements for the three sites including the redevelopment of the skate park into a modern youth space.

Demographic and Population Considerations

The estimated population of Blackwater in 2011 was 5,100 people.

Over 34% of the Blackwater community is aged between 25 to 44. Blackwater is also noteworthy for the significantly lower rate of the population over 65 when compared to the State.

Current Provision

Given an Open Space and Townscape Strategy was developed for Blackwater in 2010, a simple snapshot review of existing facilities has been provided below.

Open Space - Recreation

Blain Street (All Abilities) Park

The All-Abilities Recreation Park is a small highly-embellished town feature park. It includes a range of play elements (designed to be attractive to children of all abilities). The facility also includes picnic facilities (shelters and barbecue) and amenities.

Lions Park

Being located on the Capricorn Highway on the western side of town, Lions Park provides an entry feature for Blackwater. The Park includes train carriages, flags, amenities, picnic facilities and covered play. For a feature park, many of the embellishments are in poor condition—the amenities building should be replaced while the picnic facilities (shelters and tables) should also be upgraded. Additionally, the carriages limit the views into the Park from the Highway.

Blackwater Rotary Park

This Park includes a large covered sand play area, additional play areas, picnic facilities and a model train track. The Park also has a relatively large internal car park. While the range of opportunities within the Park is appropriate, many require upgrades.

Dempsey Park

Dempsey Park is a large relatively undeveloped park with high quality play opportunities at one end. The play area is shaded and fenced and also includes picnic facilities (shelter and electric barbecue) and amenities. From inspections and interviews, it would appear that this is the most heavily used play area for younger children in Blackwater.

Bedford Weir Recreation Area

The recreation area located on the banks of the Bedford Weir provides appropriate facilities for locals and visitors. The facilities include shaded picnic tables, both wood and electric barbecues (that may require replacement), simple play elements, pathways, amenities and boat ramp. The Powerboat and Ski Club facility is located adjoining the recreation area while a low impact Council-managed camping ground is also located nearby.

The recreation area has a 2006 concept plan, undertaken to inform future improvements of the site.

Additional facilities

In addition to the more heavily embellished (and used) facilities listed above, there are many more recreation parks within Blackwater. While a small number are named and may have a simple play area within them, many are simply large areas of undeveloped (and largely unused) open space.
Open Space - Sport

Hunter Street Sports Complex

The Hunter Street Sports Complex is the home for a number of field and court sports in Blackwater. The facility is large at 32ha, and the site offers the equivalent of approximately ten full-size rectangular fields (if fully developed). Additionally, the Complex has facilities for outdoor basketball, outdoor netball, cricket and tennis. Track cycling and athletics previously took place onsite.

It is clear that the clubs and Council have worked to upgrade some of the facilities within the Complex (e.g. the football and rugby league clubhouse and adjoining fields) while other facilities require upgrades or re-consideration (e.g. two outdoor bitumen basketball courts).

B&L Boase Recreation Complex

This facility (located on the south-western outskirts of town) is the home to speedway, rodeo and the Social Riders Club. While the Social Riders Club facilities are in appropriate condition, many of the facilities at the Speedway and Rodeo grounds require significant upgrades. Ultimately, this facility requires a master plan.

Blackwater Equestrian Area (Pony Club and Active Riders)

This equestrian area is located directly to the south of the Capricorn Highway. However, access is some distance from the Highway via Turpentine Street.

The Pony Club has developed an appropriate facility with quality fencing and jump areas. It is clear that the Active Riders are progressively upgrading their facility with timber yards being converted to steel yards. While these two areas currently function as separate locations, potential exists for joint development.

Blackwater Tennis Facility (Lions Park)

Four lit synthetic grass tennis courts are located in the south-west corner of Lions Park. The courts are fully fenced and serviced by a car park directly to the west. The court surface of the two courts nearest to the pool is poor and these courts will require significant repair/replacement in the short to medium-term.

Blackwater Pool

The Pool is located directly to the north of Lions Park and adjoins the Blackwater State School to the west. The facility includes a 25m, 8 lane pool that provides learn-to-swim, infant aquatics, and stroke development squad. A significant upgrade is planned for 2013/14.

Blackwater Motorcross

This private facility provides a quality track with appropriate spectator areas. It is well-located being on the far southern side of town away from residential areas.

Blackwater Country Club

This private facility includes a lit synthetic grass bowls green, golf course and squash centre.

Active Transport

Blackwater has clearly been planned (and developed) with the needs of walkers and cyclists as a key consideration. On-road cycle lanes are provided on a number of key connecting streets (e.g. both sides of Mackenzie Street, along Acacia Street, Blair Street, and Arthur Street). Additionally, off-road walk/cycle paths have been developed to connect key community facilities.

The Open Space and Townscape Strategy provides a range of recommendations regarding the need for additional off-road path links and the desire to develop a fitness trail (with fitness stations connected by designated walk/cycle loops).

Further opportunity exists to enhance links to the heart of the town by developing walk/cycle links along the bushland and wildlife corridors (directly to the north-east and east respectively) of the town centre.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey

Twenty-two responses were received from Blackwater. Respondents were very satisfied with the number of parks but noted the need for enhanced maintenance, walking opportunities and shade.

Community Meeting

While the community feels a little 'planned to death', the key challenge facing Blackwater remains the lack of affordable housing, with families leaving as a result. Additional land needs to be developed for families rather than solely for mine-related accommodation.

While the community is proud of the quality of the parks, sports facilities, natural areas and designated bike lanes, improvements are required. The town requires an open space lighting strategy to identify those areas where dark community use is appropriate.

Additionally, a new youth space is required to replace the skate park and nature strip improvements are required to enhance the overall amenity of the town.

Despite the detailed consultation and planning undertaken in early stages, the community is 'generally' disappointed with the end product developed at the All-Abilities Recreation Park as it does not necessarily reflect expressed community desires.

Sport Workshop

With the drain of families from Blackwater, a number of junior sports are struggling for members. It is predicted that junior cricket may no longer exist within five years, while currently 11 year olds are forced to play in the U18 soccer competition given the lack of numbers of younger players.

It was indicated that Blackwater cannot support two separate tennis facilities. Ideally, one four-court facility should be developed in a central location within town.

Senior cricket would like additional lights erected at the Hunter Street Sports Complex to allow for night matches. Similarly, to ensure continued quality opportunities are available for juniors, a two-net practice facility is required.

Rugby union is keen to develop a three bay 'shed' at the Sports Complex to provide areas for additional storage and an area for change rooms.

Senior rugby league requires new change rooms and upgraded field lighting.

Opportunity may exist for Little Athletics to be re-established at the High School if it is deemed that demand exists.
School Visit

Club Participation

Despite the range of opportunities available, club participation for primary-aged students was low at approximately one third. In contrast, club participation was high (seventy-five per cent) amongst the secondary class interviewed. Interestingly, every male in the secondary group participated in club sport while only one girl played club sport (in fact she was a member of two clubs).

For primary-aged boys, football, rugby league and touch were popular while the only club sports girls participated in were tennis and football. Identical results were shown for secondary-aged males while the lone secondary-aged female played netball and touch.

Sport and Recreation Likes

For most of the primary-aged students, the pool, skate park and All Abilities Recreation Park were popular places to recreate. Riding bikes along the streets, footpaths and on dirt tracks 'in the bush' was also common.

At first response, the secondary class suggested that they liked 'nothing' with regard to sport and recreation. However, deeper discussion highlighted that most hang at the pool during summer and about half spent time at the Bedford Weir during school holidays.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Both the primary and secondary classes indicated a desire for a water play area, new skate park (with bmx track with dirt jumps) and more challenging play opportunities (e.g. climbing nets, rock climbing wall).

Additional Key Stakeholders

Council Staff (Blackwater-based)

Significant sport, recreation and open space planning has previously been conducted within the Blackwater community. It is imperative that additional consultation is focussed and reflects previous directions.

Blackwater currently has more open space than Council can currently afford to retain and/or develop. The Blackwater PDA Development Scheme provides for open space to be allocated for alternate purposes.

The current location of the skate facility 'behind' the PCYC is not preferred or sustainable.

Future Directions

- with such an apparent over-supply of open space for recreation within Blackwater; Council should continue to investigate opportunities to reallocate open space land for more appropriate uses (as outlined in the Open Space and Townscape Strategy)
- investigate relocating the Blackwater Pool to the Hunter Street Sports Complex
- develop or review (and adopt) master plans for existing key facilities (e.g. B&L Boase Recreation Complex, Lions Park, Rotary Park and Dempsey Park)
- seek funding for development of the youth recreation facility and equestrian precinct
- depending on the implementation of the Hunter Street Sports Complex master plan, consider opportunities to centralise tennis
- tourist stop-over point to be integrated with showgrounds plans
- develop an appropriate access point to the Blackwater Motorscross facility, Turpentine Road Blackwater

Residents have requested outdoor exercise equipment and a walking loop including seating, shade and water points. This development has previously been identified in EDQ planning processes.

Lions Park requires upgrades including lighting and replacement of the existing amenities block. Similarly, the All-Abilities Recreation Area requires lighting to increase current usage.

Blackwater PCYC

The PCYC is the hub of formal physical activity programs for Blackwater. While the focus for the facility is supposed to be on youth, the most popular programs tend to attract adults. The range of programs include yoga, punchfit, powerbar, pilates, playgroup, roller derby, boxing, circuit fitness classes, skating, gymnastics, ju jitsu and indoor soccer. Without a qualified coach, basketball has ceased operating.

The single indoor court has a rubber floor and is generally well used as a venue for dances and events and as an indoor training alternative for field sports. However, the facility gets very hot during warmer months and requires enhanced ventilation.

The skate facility is poorly located and does not have adequate ancillary facilities (e.g. seating, shelter and water points). PCYC would prefer it was removed with a more suitable facility redeveloped.
Background Research

Literature Review
Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report
Highlighting the importance of open space, the highest short-term priority identified was the need for maintenance and upgrade of parks. Similarly, the second highest long-term priority was for better facilities to attract and retain young families.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting
The meeting highlighted that the community values the amenity of the town with its attractive gardens. Additionally, the community facilities (parks, tennis, football and town hall) are highly valued.

Short-term priorities identified included the need for Lions Park upgrades (toilets, enhanced maintenance and bubblers) and additional footpaths. Longer-term priorities included better parks to cater for a growing community.

Demographic and Population Considerations
Bluff had an estimated population of 370 people in 2011.

When compared to the State average, Bluff has less than half the proportion of people aged between 15 and 25, but a higher rate of those aged between 45 and 64. Bluff also has a higher rate of couples with children.

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation
Lions Park
This town feature park includes a range of facilities - skate and bmx facility, covered play, swings and totem, four covered areas and picnic table under trees. The Park does not provide access to power or water.

Tom Ohl Memorial Park
Tom Ohl Memorial Park is a linear park running along the highway. It includes a war memorial, landscaping, fencing and two covered picnic tables. This is a preferred stopping area for travellers.

Rest Area (adjoining Sport and Recreation Facility)
This rest area includes two covered picnic facilities, landscaping and information board.

Open Space - Sport
Sport and Recreation Facility
This facility is the home of the Bluff Rabbitohs senior rugby league team. It includes a full-size field and additional land for a 3/4 size field (if needed), uncovered grandstand, commentator's box, canteen and change rooms. The facility also includes two lit tennis courts with covered area for players and spectators and small toilet facility.

Community Facilities
The Bluff CWA Hall is used for recreation and sport on a regular basis, including yoga, zumba, indoor bowls and dance.

In proximity to Bluff there are other facilities associated with a racecourse to the north of the town and a shooting range to the west of the town that has access off the Capricorn Highway.

There is also an approved but unconstructed non-resident worker accommodation complex to the west of Bluff that is proposing to be linked by a cycle path and with public access to the gym facilities.

Active Transport
A footpath currently links most of the key facilities in town - from the Sport and Recreation Area, along the highway past the shops, to the school and along Church Street to Graham Street.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey
The two respondents noted the need for additional walking opportunities and enhanced shade.

Community Drop-in
Unfortunately, only one person attended the drop-in session.

Bluff Park requires additional upgrades to meet the high levels of use it currently attracts:

- shaded seating
- barbecues and taps
- toilets
- additional play equipment.

School Visit

Club Sport Participation
Almost half of the students were involved in club sport. With most club sport played in Blackwater, popular sports for boys were rugby league, pony club and squash. For girls, netball was popular. Additional sports included golf, gymnastics and cross country running.

Sports and Recreation Likes
Lions Park was very popular for all of the students - they spend most afternoons and many weekends playing together at the site. Additionally, many students enjoying swimming at the Blackwater pool.

Sports and Recreation that is Missing
Key future requests by the students included Lions Park upgrades (toilets, shade, barbecues, baseball and netball posts and water) and the development of a community pool.

The students also 'dreamed' of having a water park within town (but accepted that the town was not big enough to warrant such a facility).

Future Directions

- develop a simple master plan for Lions Park, Consider opportunities for additional play, barbecue facilities (potentially solar powered), water points and single reversible goalpost with basketball backboard and netball ring
- the walk/cycle path along Church Street should be continued to Lions Park to link with the other community facilities in town. Additionally, to extend safe walking opportunities, the development of a loop within the Sport and Recreation Area should be considered
- consider opportunities for Council to play a more active role in the management of the CWA Hall.

Bluff is a safe town - youths leave their footballs and bikes (etc) at Lions Park for others to use knowing they will be left there when they return.

The town has a strong physical activity (weight loss) focus and additional safe walking opportunities could be beneficial.
Active Transport
- Existing
- Proposed

Open Space Network
- Existing
- Future

Images of Bluff
place-based considerations

8.5 Capella

Background Research

Literature Review
Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report
The survey results highlight that the community appreciates the range and quality of the existing sport and recreation facilities. Short-term priorities include the marketing and continued maintenance of existing facilities. Additionally, the continued upgrades and extension of the Capella Parklands project is also important.

Long-term priorities include additional formal sport opportunities for youth, continuation of walking opportunities and enhanced town beautification.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting
The community is proud of the quality of the aquatic centre and the opportunities available at the Bridgeman Park Sporting Complex.

Demographic and Population Considerations
Approximately 926 people resided within Capella in 2011.
Accounting for over 46% of the population, Capella has a higher than state average of couples with children.

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation
Amaroo Park
This well-treed park includes a covered play area and both shaded and unshaded picnic facilities. A small toilet block, barbecue, bins, taps and lighting make this a popular park.

Capella Parkland
This linear entry statement includes pathways, shelters, landscaping and Light Horse monument. Additionally, a Geo-Park has been developed at the southern end of the Parklands.

Lions Park
Lions Park is a fenced ‘rest stop’ park on the edge of the highway. It includes shaded play, picnic facilities, barbeque, toilets and tourist information.

Memorial Park
Memorial Park adjoins the skate park and includes a War Memorial, landscaping and seating.

Skate Park
The skate park includes a sealed learn-to-ride track with signage, concrete skate facility with shade structure (shade sail missing), shade shelter and barbecue.

Capella Creek Nature Walk
This walk is a 2.3km trail along Capella Creek. It originates at the Gregory Highway leading through to the weir.

Open Space - Sport
Bridgeman Park Sporting Complex
The Complex includes a range of sport and recreation facilities including:
- ticket booth and entry statement
- covered arena
- lit main arena with grandsands
- shaded playground
- pavilions
- lit float and camping area
- two lit rectangular fields with clubhouse, grandstands and commentator’s box (and cricket pitch)
- polocrosse fields.

Aquatic Centre
The aquatic centre includes five solar-heated pools (8-lane 50m pool with grandstand, learn-to-swim pool, splash pool, water slide pool and plunge pool), picnic facilities, four barbecues, gymnasium, squash court, 9 hole mini golf course and café.

Tennis and Basketball Courts
The tennis facility includes four hard courts and two synthetic courts - all of which are lit. This facility is in fair condition with both the courts and fencing requiring upgrades.

Adjoining the tennis facility are two asphalt basketball courts with lights. These courts are in very poor condition.

Active Transport
Pathways have been developed as part of the Capella Parklands project running parallel with the Highway and crossing into the Geo-Park (at the southern end of the Parklands).

Consultation Summary

Household Survey
The five respondents from Capella were generally satisfied with the number of parks, shade provision and maintenance. Additionally, respondents were satisfied with all types of sport and recreation facility and walking opportunities.

Community Meeting
Sporting events attract significant economic benefit for Capella. Typical events include state-level polocrosse and campdraft.

The tennis courts require an upgrade, while opportunity exists to redevelop the basketball courts for an alternate recreation/sport use.

While Bridgeman Park Sporting Complex is a popular venue, a master plan review is required to ensure a clear future direction for the facility and best-use of the existing open spaces.

Walking is popular in Capella and a sealed loop would offer additional safe opportunities.

Potential exists to further enhance town beautification through improved maintenance of the Capella courtyard, showcasing the CWA bakehouse and upgrades at Amaroo Park.

Additional project requests include the development of a bmx facility adjoining the skate area, development of a larger gym at the aquatic centre, provision of outdoor exercise equipment and signage and enhanced maintenance to support the Birdwatching Trail.
School Visit

Club Sport Participation

Only two of the primary school children interviewed were involved in club sport (one boy in rugby league and a girl in tennis). By comparison, almost half of the secondary-aged students played club sport (albeit only one of these was a female).

Popular sports for the older males included rugby league, touch and tennis while the female was involved in swimming in Tieri.

Sport and Recreation Likes

Primary-aged

Most of the students enjoyed swimming at the aquatic centre, with half also playing at the skate park. With big backyards, many students prefer to play or ride motorbikes with friends at residences.

Secondary-aged

Those students that lived in Tieri liked ‘hanging’ at the pool and the Sports and Recreation Centre. Additionally, most students attended the skate parks in Capella and Tieri.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Primary-aged

Younger students were seeking more adventure-based play such as flying foxes, climbing nets or tyre swings.

Secondary-aged

Older students were also keen for more adventurous play opportunities. Additionally, students were seeking a community water play park, BMX track (in Capella) and ancillary facilities at the skate parks (e.g. shelter and water).

Additional Stakeholders

Council

Council has a range of sport and recreation upgrades planned for Capella.

- fitness trail - develop within Town or on vacant Council land on the right hand side leading to Bridgeman Park
- skate facility - construct a solid roof over the facility, develop an adjoining BMX track
- Lions Park - develop more adventurous play
- basketball facility - remove existing embellishments and develop an additional tennis court
- Aquatic Centre - develop additional water play
- Bridgeman Park - replace sprinkler system within the covered arena, replace ‘old style’ horse stalls, develop new toilets to support polocrosse.

Future Directions

- review the Bridgeman Park Sporting Complex Master Plan
- develop a small BMX facility adjoining the skate park (with appropriate access to water and covered seating)
- remove the existing basketball facility and consider future recreation options
- seek funding to upgrade the existing tennis facilities (particularly court surfaces and fencing)
- develop a walk/cycle link to Bridgeman Park from town
- develop water play elements at the Aquatic Centre
- investigate the feasibility of developing a town walking and exercise loop. Potentially a loop can be created along the Gregory Highway (existing), along Capella Creek, along Burn Street and then back via Gordon or Conran Streets.
8.6 Comet

School Visit

Club Sport Participation

Approximately half of the students were involved in club sport with touch the most popular. Two girls were also involved in pony club.

Sport and Recreation Likes

Most of the students enjoyed playing in the park and visiting the Blackwater Pool.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Ideally, the students would like access to a skate park and areas for legal trail bike riding.

Future Directions

☐ prepare a master plan for the future development of the Comet Showgrounds (considering the priority initiatives identified by the Association and community)

☐ liaise with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to investigate the feasibility of providing a pedestrian crossing linking the school/park and the town shop and hall

☐ consider potential upgrades within Commet Showgrounds (enhanced play opportunities, shaded and clustered picnic facilities, fence realignments to incorporate the Dig Tree and amenities within the park proper, provision of electricity for community events)

☐ support the community in its endeavours to attract funding for key town hall upgrades (amenities and change areas)

☐ place historical marker on local park on Shakespeare Street to commemorate site of historical cemetery.

Open Space - Sport

Comet Showgrounds

The Showgrounds is located on the southern side of town, provides a range of opportunities and host regular events. Much of the infrastructure is aged and requires upgrades (or replacement).

The Showgrounds facility is not Council-owned or -managed.

Comet River Pony Club Cross Country Course

This facility is privately-owned. While the land is undulating and provides interesting terrain for cross country many of the obstacles are in poor condition.

Active Transport

There are currently no sealed footpaths in Comet. Due to the nature of the large properties and dispersed residents, it is a car-based town.

There is a pedestrian crossing required to link the school/park, town hall and shop.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey

The sole response from Comet indicated satisfaction with most aspects of parks and the quality of sport and recreation facilities.

Community Meeting

This well attended meeting highlighted key concerns including:

☐ town hall upgrades (toilets and change areas)

☐ showgrounds upgrades
  - short-term - amenities and stabiling
  - medium-term - canteen upgrades
  - long-term - camping area upgrades, covered arena development

☐ park upgrades (shaded tables and benches, change fencing to incorporate Dig Tree Park, provide waste dump point and electricity)

☐ pedestrian crossing required to link school/park and town hall and shop

☐ potential for east-west pathway link along Capricorn Highway identified at Planning Scheme stakeholder meeting (March 2013).

Population Considerations

Comet was estimated to have a population of 529 people in 2011.

Comet has a higher proportion of couples with children when compared to QLD, and less lone person households.

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation

Commet Whistlestop Park

Commet Whistlestop Park is the only recreation facility in Comet. This fenced Park includes quality play opportunities and a number of un-shaded picnic facilities. Additionally, tourist information is housed within the train carriage at the rear of the Park. The Dig Tree monument is located at the front of the reserve.

Background Research

Literature Review

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The need for activities for youth, attracting and retaining families and maintaining parks and gardens were all highlighted through the Survey Report.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

Comet residents are proud of the community spirit and support and the community-focused facilities that have been developed.

Identified short-term priorities include showgrounds and town hall upgrades; and provision of additional shaded play options. In the longer-term, the development of sporting facilities and activities for teenagers is desired.
Active Transport

Existing
Proposed
Highway crossing investigation

Open Space Network

Existing
Future
Place-based considerations

8.7 Dingo

Background Research

Literature Review

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The relevant issues identified through the Survey Report included the need for improved recreation, better public toilet maintenance and the development of a walking path.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

Clearly, the Dingo community values the community support and spirit that have developed local clubs and associations.

The development of walking paths for the community and sport and recreation opportunities (skate and bmx facility, pool, formal sport) for youth were identified as short-term priorities.

Demographic and Population Considerations

Dingo had approximately 342 people residing in the town in 2011. The town has a high proportion of couples with children.

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation

Jim Mitchell Memorial Complex

This facility includes a rebound wall and covered play area. It should be noted that the play area is hidden and not inviting.

Garden Project 2011

This desert-style garden was constructed by students (with Council assistance) and is located out the front of the school.

Dingo Progress Park

This well-treed park is the town feature recreation area. It includes simple covered play equipment, shaded picnic facilities and wood barbecues. A single light pole is located in the middle of the Park while a disused water feature lies in the far corner of the area.

Open Space - Sport

Jim Mitchell Memorial Complex

In addition to the recreation facilities noted above, this sporting complex includes two licenced hardcourt tennis courts (that are locked), covered spectator’s area and toilets.

Dingo Racecourse

This quality grass track facility is well maintained. It includes high quality stables (steel construction on concrete) and stalls (timber rails on grass), clubhouse area and amenities. Additionally, a 9-hole sand green golf course has recently been developed around the facility.

Dingo Rodeo Grounds

The Rodeo Grounds are well maintained and attractive. The central area of the facility includes a club facility with large covered deck overlooking a lit main arena. Timber yards support the arena, while a pony club facility (with amenities, club shed and jumps) is also located at the site.

Active Transport

There are currently limited on-road and off-road walk/cycle opportunities within Dingo. The nature of the town and surrounding area means that it is a car-based town with little opportunity for active transport.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey

The sole response indicated dissatisfaction with all aspects of parks, and with skate facilities, sporting fields and walking opportunities.

Community Drop-in

Community members clearly voiced that there is very little for young people to ‘do’ in town - nowhere exciting to play, nowhere to play cricket or football, no skate park and no pool. There are limited safe areas for youth to ride bikes and the tennis courts are locked. Finally, the town is unattractive with poor median strips and limited landscaping.

School Visit

Club Sport Participation

Slightly less than half of the students were involved in formal club sport. Swimming Club, Pony Club and football were popular for both boys and girls. Additional sports included rugby league, tennis and squash.

Sport and Recreational Likes

There were no facilities within Dingo that drew a majority viewpoint as being ‘liked’.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Four key facilities were identified as lacking:

- skate and bmx facility
- community pool
- challenging play
- open area to ‘kick a footy’.

The students also noted that they would like a facility where they could ride motorbikes. However, they recognised that riding on properties was more realistic than for Council to develop a site.

Future Directions

- investigate the potential to partner with the School to provide community sport and recreation opportunities. The School already has the highest quality play opportunities and a small oval. Issues such as after hours access and facility upgrades should be considered. Potential may even exist to jointly develop a skate facility within the School grounds.

- opportunity exists to develop a simple off-road walk/cycle loop linking the School, shops, Progress Park and Jim Mitchell Memorial Complex. Construct a path along Palmer, Cairns, Bowen and Normanby Streets.

- opportunity exists to provide a pedestrian linkage from the main settlement of Dingo to the truck stop to the south. This will involve the construction of crossing points with the agreement of the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

- if urban expansion occurs to the east (toward the racecourse), consider active transport links.
8.8 Duaringa

Background Research

**Literature Review**

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

This survey indicated a number of future challenges and opportunities worth noting in the development of this Plan.

One of the key issues is to address the loss of young families from the town by developing enhanced facilities (both new facilities and upgrade of existing) and recreation opportunities.

Upgrades and access issues at the pool were considered pivotal. While upgrades of the tennis, golf and cricket facilities were also considered important.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

Key values identified at the meeting included the community spirit, perceptions of safety, Duaringa Sports Complex and Mackenzie Park.

Short-term priorities included developing a multi-purpose recreation/sporting/skate facility and providing additional access to the pool. Similarly, longer-term priorities involved enhancements to sport facilities (e.g. tennis courts).

**Demographic and Population Considerations**

Duaringa was estimated to have 478 residents in 2011.

The median age of Dingo is significantly higher (41) when compared to both the Central Highlands (31) and the State (36).

**Current Provision**

Open Space - Recreation

Mackenzie Park Tourism and Recreation Area

Mackenzie Park has a play node supported by picnic facilities, landscaped waterfall and war memorial. A camping (and caravan) area with associated amenities and waste drop forms a focus for the facility.

Duaringa Sports Complex

A simple uncovered fenced play area is located near the clubhouse at the Sports Complex.

Open Space - Sport

Duaringa Sports Complex

The Sports Complex includes 9-hole golf course, rectangular playing field, simple athletics facilities and campdraft facilities. The facilities and ancillary sheds are well maintained.

Tennis Facility

The tennis facility is in very poor condition and includes three hard courts, two grass courts, covered spectator area and two ‘outhouses’.

D’Warr D’Nanjie Meeting Place at Swamp Oaks

This ‘cricket’ facility includes a toilet facility and spectator area (that should both be removed), picnic table and cricket practice net. The concrete cricket wicket is dangerous and the small sightscreen is in disrepair.

Active Transport

The Wildlife and Healthy Living Shared Cycle and Pedestrian Path running around the perimeter of the Sports Complex is well used and an asset to the town. While a complete loop has been developed at this facility, the rest of the town appears to have unfinished footpath projects stemming from Edward Street (but forming no links nor loops).

There is a need to provide safe access across the highway to the sports complex, to encourage active transport.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey

Five responses were received from Duaringa. Key results included satisfaction for number of parks, walking opportunities and maintenance. However, respondents were keen to see the development of a skate facility, enhanced access to the pool and tennis court upgrades.

**Community Drop-In**

A number of consistent messages were raised during the community drop-in. Firstly, walking is an important aspect for the Duaringa community - the walking track around the sports complex is well-used while many locals and visitors also walk around (and on) the streets. As a result, continued upgrades and links are required in the path network.

There are limited recreation opportunities for children. Additional play elements and a skate facility are required. Further, a number of parents noted that it is unsafe for children to access the Sports Complex without supervision given the speed and volume of traffic on the highway.

While Mackenzie Park is a focus for locals and visitors to the town, it is being poorly managed and beginning to appear run-down. The facility needs fencing, designated road areas and additional tree planting. Further, upgraded modern play equipment is also required.

Opportunity exists to redevelop the tennis facility as a youth recreation node with half court basketball, skate and bmx facility and adventure play. Potentially, one or two tennis courts could also be incorporated into the design.

School Visit

Club Sport Participation

Despite the remote location, 70% of students were involved in club sport. For boys, rugby league, football and swimming club were popular, while girls were involved in swimming club and karate. Students travelled to Rockhampton or Woorabinda to play rugby league and football. Additional sports included campdraft and golf.

Sport and Recreation Likes

While Mackenzie Park used to be popular, the flying foxes have detracted from this facility. Most students access the pool when it is open and ripstick on the tennis courts.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Students are keen to see a youth facility developed with a skate and bmx facility and more challenging play opportunities.

Additionally, greater community access to the pool is required during the school holidays and on weekends.
Future Directions

- as a key community and tourist facility, Mackenzie Park Tourism and Recreation Area requires a master plan to guide future development. Consideration should be given to enhancing the camping area by developing appropriate fencing and roadways and conducting tree planting. The picnic and play areas also require upgrades.
- investigate opportunities to redevelop the tennis facility as a youth recreation area (half court basketball, skate and BMX facility, challenging play and tennis courts)
- consider the need to retain the D'Warra D'Nanjie Meeting Place at Swamp Oaks as a cricket facility. Potentially, the facilities could be removed with the facility remaining as open space.
- work with the Duaringa State School to investigate opportunities to assist the Duaringa community to gain greater access to the swimming pool.
- develop additional walk/cycle paths to create key loops
  - create a town loop (linking with Mackenzie Park) along Alice Street, King Street, Capricorn Highway and Edward Streets
  - create key links by continuing the existing paths along Margaret, Elizabeth, Charlotte and Alice Streets through to King Street
- investigate options for a safe crossing on the highway between the petrol station and Duaringa Sports Complex.
place-based considerations

8.9 Emerald

Background Research

Literature Review

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The community values Emerald’s strong sporting groups and the quality sporting facilities. Fairbairn Dam and the Emerald Botanic Gardens are significant community assets that the community are proud of.

It is felt that there is a lack of facilities for young people, with a need for improved range of facilities and activities.

Short-Term Priorities

The Emerald community has noted a number of short-term priorities regarding sport and recreation. The community’s priorities include:

- Better access to Fairbairn Dam and the provision of a playground and additional barbecues for families when they visit
- The need to upgrade sporting facilities in the Emerald area to meet increasing community demand. The community also want to see better utilisation of sporting facilities through multi-use
- There was strong demand for an indoor sporting facility capable of hosting multiple sports and indoor activities
- There is a desire for more after school and weekend activities for teenagers
- Residents noted the need for additional walking paths and an upgrade of existing footpaths around town to make walking easier, safer and more accessible
- The Botanic Gardens were identified as needing a major upgrade, with improved maintenance and more colour
- Overall, residents listed the need for better maintenance of Emerald’s parks as an important short-term priority
- It was also requested that there is a need for more parks with improved play equipment for children of all ages.

Long-Term Priorities

In addition to the short-term priorities of the community, Emerald residents listed a number of long-term relevant recreation and sport priorities for the area.

The deficiency of activities for seniors was noted, with a limited number of specific programs and facilities currently available.

There is a desire for a well-designed sport and recreation centre close to the centre of town, and a park within the Emerald CBD where workers could go for lunch and to relax.

As a significant community asset, residents see the importance of continuing to develop the Botanic Gardens for the region.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

The community highly value the wide range of sporting and recreation opportunities and facilities, parks and Botanic Gardens, and the Fairbairn Dam for recreation.

The short-term priorities for Emerald are the continuous improvement of facilities and activities for youth - focus on one park and make it great. More parks and activities for younger children.

Demographic and Population Considerations

Emerald town and surrounds had an approximate population of 13,884 people in 2011.

With a median age of 29, Emerald’s population is relatively young when compared to the Queensland average of 36. It also has a higher number of couples with children when compared to the state average.

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation

Emerald has a good provision (quantity) of passive open space, with the majority of the network made up of local recreation parks. The following passive open spaces are notable for their role in Emerald’s open space network.

Fairbairn Dam

Fairbairn Dam is a regional water source with recreation assets owned by SunWater, which provides opportunities for boating, fishing, swimming, barbecues and picnic facilities, camping and walking tracks. There are issues with community access, given the core focus of the Dam is for water management and supply.

The community highly value the Dam for the recreation opportunities it provides.

Emerald Botanic Gardens

At approximately 42ha, the Botanic Gardens provide a significant recreational asset for the Central Highlands. The site adjoins the Nogoa River and provide opportunities for walking, nature appreciation, barbecues and picnic areas, play equipment, sheltered seating, as well as camping.

The site is in need of major maintenance and upgrades as the infrastructure is ageing, sporadic and inappropriate for users and the role of the open space in the Region’s hierarchy.

Lions Park (Emerald)

The Park is well-located in proximity to a number of schools and in walking distance to the CBD. It contains a fenced playground with shaded play elements and good provision of natural shade within the entire park. There are internal pathways and sufficient supporting infrastructure including amenities. The Park is well used and well maintained.

Centenary Park

Centenary Park has a modern shaded playground, internal path way, and hosts the Emerald Playgroup Building. An old shelter/structure exists which needs to be removed. The site has road frontage on two sides and has good natural shade.

Vicki Peters Park

This Park is a good example of a local park, with modern play equipment for a range of age groups and abilities, natural and man-made shade, good surveillance, lighting and seating.

Emerald has a number of other local recreation parks including:

- Barry Slack Park
- Gair Park
- Kipling Park
- Laura and Myra Stanton Park
- Peet Park.
Open Space - Sport

Sunrise Rotary BMX Park
The BMX park is a recently-built precinct catering for junior skills development, informal recreation and a BMX racing circuit complete with start line and dirt jumps. The site has the potential to house a club, host events and be a well-used facility. While the facility may meet state standards, additional drainage works and embellishment are required.

Alan McIndoe Park
Council has recently master planned this site to become the premier rugby league facility for Emerald. There are four clubs located at the Park, both with senior and junior teams. The facility has two full fields that are currently at capacity, change rooms and amenities, clubhouse, grandstands, playground, and a significant function centre.

The master plan provides recommendations for an additional field, for games and training.

Emerald Driver Training and Motor Sport Complex
The national standard Emerald Karting Club is based at the Driver Training and Motor Sport Complex which has received a new sealed bitumen track.

The main features of the fully fenced facility include a large covered pit area that is sealed, with an adjoining open air sealed pit area. The facility has a driver training classroom and a new amenities building.

Emerald Touch - Racecourse
The Emerald Racecourse is a unique facility which houses eight touch fields (seven full) within the centre of the race track. The facility is well-used and has a canteen and amenities, as well as playground and shaded spectator seating area. Polocrosse also have four fields within the centre of the race track, which are utilised throughout the year.

Rundle Park
Re-development of Rundle Park for tennis and netball, cricket nets and soccer/rugby field occurred in 2012. The development of this site creates a significant community precinct, with the Emerald Aquatic Centre adjacent to the site.

Morton Park
Morton Park is a central spine of open space running through Emerald. It is made up of three land parcels. The first houses the Emerald Visitor Information Centre, rest stop with amenities, the World’s biggest Van Gogh Sunflower painting, and a Centenary of Federation mosaic pathway.

The second parcel contains the sports fields for soccer and rugby union. A fully fenced playground in poor condition is inappropriately located within the park, beside an amenities building. There are primitive sports fields and goal posts, clubhouse and temporary shade structures.

The Emerald Skate Park is located within the third parcel of the Park, with little supporting infrastructure and limited shade. The skate park has issues with drainage.

With the recent relocation of netball to Rundle Park, Morton Park is in need of a master plan to determine its best future use. Morton Park suffers from a lack of distinct activity areas, which could also be addressed through the master planning process.

Emerald PCYC
In recent years, membership has decreased as formal sport has become less popular (anecdotally). However, membership of almost 1,200 has been retained - the gym facilities and group fitness classes are very popular.

The facility is used for basketball three times each week.

The facility also hosts badminton, tae kwon do, dance and Ju Jitsu while gymnastics rents a small space at the rear of the facility.

Additional programs include an after school program two afternoons each week and the ‘SportsAbility’ program is conducted one afternoon each week.

The PCYC has taken over the management of the two indoor cricket courts at the Showgrounds. The facility hosts indoor cricket, indoor soccer, indoor netball and indoor hockey. It is predicted that this development will markedly increase the PCYC’s membership.

Court Action
Court Action is a privately-owned facility offering opportunities for tennis, squash and golf practice.

Two full hard court tennis courts are available at Court Action. The facility was ‘home’ to the Emerald Tennis Association while upgrade works at Rundle Park were undertaken. Outside use, the facility is used for social competitions three mornings each week and also hosts afternoon coaching programs.

The facility includes five glass-backed squash courts in good condition. The courts are heavily used, currently hosting six social competitions each week.

The golf driving range is regularly used for casual use. A local golf professional conducts infrequent clinics while a small number of school groups also use the facility.

The facility managers plan to relocate the golf driving range nearer to the tennis court to allow room for a mini golf course to be constructed in the current driving range location. Additionally, opportunity exists to develop facilities for archery if the need is established.

Epic All Sports
Epic All Sports is a privately-owned facility that includes two ovals with synthetic cricket wickets, a two-net cricket practice facility and large clubhouse.

Gymnastics
The Emerald Gymnastics and Trampoline Club currently operate out of the Emerald PCYC building. The club numbers have been capped due to the limited space they operate from. The club requires a new venue with sufficient space for storage, safe clearance heights, with improved ventilation and cooling to enable the hosting of competitions.

Softball
Softball has not been formally conducted within the Council boundary since 2010. A social masters team competes at tournament on an infrequent basis. The Association owns a range of equipment including back nets and a pitching machine. However, it is perceived that there is currently limited demand for the re-establishment of a formal competition.
Basketball
Basketball was once very strong within Emerald. However, the sport has dropped in popularity to the point where there are very few seniors and only approximately eighty juniors involved in regular fixtures. The lack of quality courts is considered a key reason for this decrease.

Emerald Agricultural College
The Agricultural College is experiencing increasing requests for use of their fields by local clubs, with recent use by rugby league, rugby union, soccer and cricket.

The College has three fields, lighting, amenities and a kiosk/canteen. Interestingly, however, the College no longer uses the facilities themselves.

Active Transport
Emerald has a highly accessible street layout, with wide streets within the majority of the urban centre. However, there are currently a number of barriers to accessibility, including the Capricorn Highway, Hospital Road, and the Nogoa River Corridor that bisects the town.

The current path network provides a sound base in which to encourage active transport, however, there are some gaps in provision (see Emerald Open Space and Active Transport Map).

Consultation Summary
Household Survey
The key findings from surveys originating from Emerald included satisfaction with the number of parks and access to rivers, yet dissatisfaction with play and walking opportunities. There was also an indication that facility maintenance improvements were required.

Community Meeting
- it was clear from the wide range of attendees, that there is a lack of activities, facilities and programs for teenagers and older children (12+) in Emerald
- the Botanic Gardens are well used however, they are in need of a major upgrade (both maintenance and infrastructure)
- the community have a desire to have more control over access to Fairbairn Dam. It was felt that the facilities are run down. It was also perceived a playground is needed in the recreation area for visitors to the Dam
- attendees suggested that ‘ba’becues typically do not work within parks in Emerald
- bike paths are quite good, however exercise equipment to form a loop is needed to encourage the community to get active. Additionally, embellishments are required along pathways including rest stops, to cater for all users including the elderly
- it was suggested that a designated multi-purpose track is required, to allow for off-road running, cycling, and walking
- need for more challenging outdoor equipment for youth such as a rock climbing wall
- the community are proud of the Sunflower painting in Morton Park and would like to see the area landscaped to improve amenity and encourage visitors to stop there
- there is a need to upgrade the Emerald skate park - it currently has no supporting infrastructure, or hang out space for the non-skaters
- there are opportunities to develop horse trails along the Region’s stock routes
- Emerald is known to have a history of high participation in club sport
- Marist College is seeking funding to install lights and amenities to allow after hours use by clubs. They have also considered plans for the development of an indoor facility to include multi-purpose sport and recreation opportunities
- the community would like to see better use of the river, with more accessible areas of open space and activity areas for the whole community. It was suggested that an informal community gathering space such as an amphitheatre could host town events, markets and festivals to encourage community interaction.
- non-motorised access to the water was mentioned, as well as access to linear waterside pathways for walking and cycling
- it was raised that there is insufficient areas to host large community celebrations, events and performances. It was suggested that an area of Morton Park could be re-developed to include a community space.

Sports Meeting
The Emerald Hockey Association is currently located at the PCYC and Epic All-Sports. The association has approximately 30 members, however, is in need of a new home in order to expand.

Gymnastics is in need of a purpose-built indoor facility. The Club currently operates out of the PCYC, however, there are issues with the limited space available given the size of the club, and limited storage for their equipment. The Club currently has 200 members and caterers for Emerald and surrounding towns. The facility restricts the Club’s ability to host competitions, and there is a waiting list for new members. The Club has had issues with the retention of qualified coaches.

The irregular use of the Emerald Racecourse by polocrosse is not seen as the best use of the land. There is community support to allocate other regular sporting uses, to cater for increasing demand for sporting land.

The Emerald Touch Association has a master plan for the development of additional fields at their current site at the Racecourse. They are seeking a lease/commitment/license with Council, for the ongoing use of the site.

With the re-development of Rundle Park as a precinct for tennis and netball, cricket is in need of a facility. The Club currently operates out of Marist College, Emerald State High, and the Agriculture College. The Cricket field at the Showgrounds is poorly maintained, and there is little supporting infrastructure provided (including no storage). The Club has a desire to apply for grant funding, which is difficult given they are without a regular venue.

There is a general lack of consistency in maintenance and licence agreements between Council and clubs across Emerald. Clubs are seeking more communication with Council, and an understanding of who is responsible for what elements of maintenance and provision of infrastructure.
School Visits

Club Participation

With a wide range of opportunities available in Emerald, club participation for primary-aged students was high (more than 76%) and relatively high for secondary-aged students (almost 57%).

Interestingly, participation for primary girls was slightly higher than for boys, while in the secondary groups, participation was higher amongst males (following the national trend).

For primary-aged boys, rugby league, karate, squash and golf were popular while for girls netball and cheerleading were popular. In contrast, for the older male students touch and swimming were popular while basketball, netball and pony club were popular for the females.

Sport and Recreation Likes

For the majority of the primary-aged students, the skate park, Steve Bell Park and the Botanic Gardens were popular. The BMX track was also used by those who rode bikes.

Secondary-aged students tended to ‘hang out’ at the skate park.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Both the primary and secondary classes indicated a desire for improved playing fields and a water play area. Secondary students also noted a desire for more play opportunities for older youth, mini golf and a ten pin bowling facility.

Additional Stakeholders

Active Seniors

The group interviewed about the open space, sport and recreation needs of seniors in Emerald noted the following issues and opportunities:

- there is a need for circuits of pathways with signage, distance markers, exercise equipment, shade, seating and water
- programs for active seniors are limited
- the Botanic Gardens need more informal spaces for large groups and require tidying up of the formal garden areas.

Additionally, it should be noted that touch and gymnastics are popular sports for young people (yet this was not observed in the school visits)

Morton Park Emerald

Future Directions

The Botanic Gardens requires a master plan to shape its future direction and provide a prioritised program of works. The site is in need of a clear set of information and directional signage (for navigation both within and to the site from its many entrance points), rationalisation of infrastructure, and the establishment of key activity areas. Additionally, this master plan should consider medium-term long-term opportunities for extension of the Botanic Gardens north of the Vince Lessac Bridge.

Investigate the feasibility of partnering with Marist College in the development of an indoor mid-court sport and recreation facility

Undertake a master plan for Morton Park for its re-development with the relocation of netball. Master Plan to include:

- an upgrade of amenities and supporting infrastructure at the skate park
- investigate the feasibility for a purpose-built walking and cycling track within the park
- improvement of the tourism and recreation precinct adjoining the visitor information centre
- confirmation of future sports to be located at the facility

Investigate opportunities to promote Fairbairn Dam as a venue for triathlon events

Provide existing pathways with shade, water and rest stops

Investigate a suitable site for the future home of gymnastics in Emerald

Review existing and proposed sport and recreation facilities in Emerald for potential co-location of groups to optimise use of facilities

Investigate acquisition of a green link from Morton Park south to the western side of McIndoe Park

Provide internal walking tracks, bird watching facilities and an Interpretive centre including storage and training room (weed management and other topics related to lard care) at Riff Range Nature Reserve

Investigate a long-term goal to establish a walkway from the Nogoa River (Botanic Garden), along the western wildlife corridor to Riff Range Nature Reserve then down to the irrigation channel. This will involve some revegetation

Investigate a suitable site for the future home of cricket in Emerald

Undertake a rationalisation of some local recreation parks

Undertake a CPTED audit of all local recreation parks

Ensure asset renewal is not like-for-like. Local recreation parks need a re-design, as the network has a sense of ‘sameness’

Need for additional district to regional level recreation parks

Need for additional sport facilities - multi-field sports of 10-15ha or more to service the current shortfall and growing community

Consider opportunities for road cycling in light of preferred regional recreational routes advocated by the Central Queensland Principal Cycle Network (DTMR).
Touch Fields, Emerald Racetrack
place-based considerations

8.10 Gemfields

Background Research

Literature Review

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The Gemfields community highly values the Miners Common, and the unique access this provides, as well as the natural environment, scenic amenities and open spaces. The Sapphire pool is also a valued community asset.

Noted as a major challenge for the community is boredom, with a lack of extracurricular activities available for high school children.

Short-term sport and recreation priorities include a walking track, a PCYC/gym with various activities, a larger pool, a youth centre with activities such as a skate park/bmx, bike paths, motorbike track, soccer, archery club, and more sporting options such as soccer and basketball. The community would also like to see more investment in and attention to their parks, including better and more frequent maintenance, and improved embellishments such as swings, shade, barbecues, and pathways.

The long-term priorities for the Gemfields largely mirror the short-term priorities with the addition of a designated area for teens to legally ride off-road motorbikes and more activities for children to enhance their sport and recreation skills.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

The community meeting attendees listed, among their short-term priorities, the development of an interpretive trail or centre to showcase their industry and attract more tourists into the area.

Demographic and Population Considerations

The Gemfields has an estimated resident population of 1,630 within the towns and surrounding areas.

When compared to the State average, the Gemfields has more than double the proportion of people aged 65 and over. The Gemfields also has double the State average of lone person households.

Couples without children make up 63% of the population, which is further supported by the median age in the Gemfields being 54, (compared to 31 for the Central Highlands).

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation

There is a recreation precinct at the entry to the Gemfield Willows township containing a community hall, pottery club and recreation hall. A range of activities occur within the precinct including dancing, dart, pool, remote car racing, card nights and quilting. This is the focal point of the community.

At Gemfield Willows, there is a centrally located water reserve area extending over several allotments. This area is urban bushland and there is a series of walking tracks that have evolved over time as residents regularly use this unofficial pathway network. The community would like to see this area improved with signposted walking tracks, seating and picnic areas. There is potential to include an artwork trail and a mini bush golf course. This would provide a recreation resource for both tourists and residents, who due to their age prefer more passive forms of recreation rather than active sports.

At Sapphire, a nature reserve next to Roy Day Park is currently being developed under a management plan that includes signed post walking trails. This could be extended to include additional locations such as the Sapphire Cemetery and Retreat Creek.

Rubyvale Recreation Grounds

This Park has a fenced junior playground, amenities, bbq, camp kitchen/canteen/bar (‘Len’s Mess’), stage and firepits. The Park has an oval that is not well maintained and is used predominately for events.

Council has also recently acquired several large central land parcels in Rubyvale that will need to be developed under a master plan for the benefit of tourism and residents.

Kangou lou Park

Kangou lou Park is a road-side rest stop with a large shelter, seating and a fenced playground.

Centenary Park

Centenary Park is a fenced road-side park with barbecues, seating, bins, and shade trees.

Anakie State School

This is the only school in the Gemfields. The School has a range of quality sport and recreation elements including two playgrounds (one shaded), two multi-courts (that include opportunities for netball, tennis and basketball), and an oval with a running track and cricket practice nets.

Open Space - Sport

Sapphire Aquatic Centre

The Gemfields is serviced by the Sapphire Aquatic Centre, a small complex of a shaded 12m pool, and a smaller therapy pool.

Allen King Memorial Park

This is a large park with a sports infrastructure and no real activity area. The Park is fully fenced and contains sheltered seating, two lit tennis courts (in poor condition), cricket pitch, barbecue, amenities and storage sheds.

Rubyvale Tennis

Rubyvale Tennis includes two lit, ant-bed courts with a clubhouse.

Roy Day Park

Roy Day Park is home to the Sapphire Football Club Junior Rugby League. It contains a lit playing field, shaded playground, grandstand (in poor condition), rodeo (and campdraft) facility, community garden, clubhouse and amenities.

Roy Day Park is also used for the disabled and the Lapidary Club. There is an abandoned half sized basketball court in very poor condition in the adjoining DNRM reserve between Roy Day Park and Kangou lou Park.

Anakie Bocce Green (Hotel)

The Anakie Hotel has an outdoor bocce.

Gemfields Clay Target Club

The Gemfields Clay Target Club is a private facility.

Active Transport

The Gemfields includes the communities of Anakie, Willows Gemfields, Sapphire, Rubyvale, Begartungun. These diverse communities are spread out and provide little opportunity for formal connections between the towns.

The Gemfields is comprised of a mix of mining claims and rural residential-sized allotments. There are issues with the speed of vehicles, mainly trucks, passing through the centre of the towns and the safety of pedestrians.
Consultation Summary

Household Survey
The eight Gemfields responses showed general dissatisfaction (or neutrality) toward all aspects of parks and all sport and recreation facility types.

Community Meeting
- Roy Day Park is in need of a second field for overflow training and games, and for hosting events.
- The Rubyvale Recreation Ground is in need of shade over the playground, and the toilets are permanently locked, which restricts visitors from using the park as a rest stop.
- Centenary and Kangoulool Parks are not maintained enough for use, with more frequent mowing of grass required especially in the tourist season.
- Maintenance of open space is a wide-spread and common issue across the Gemfields. The community has requested a maintenance schedule from Council so they are aware of when maintenance is scheduled to occur.
- The community is seeking support to help Council to maintain local facilities.
- General town maintenance and up-keep needs to be planned to increase leading up to the tourist season.
- The tourists visiting the Gemfields are mainly seniors. Potentially, there is a need for flat footpaths in each town.
- The need for a youth facility (such as a skate/bmx facility) within the Gemfields was raised.
- There has been an increase in illegal trail bike riding on the Common. It was suggested that there needs to be clearer signage around the Common on what activities are permitted, as well as promotion in Emerald of what activities are prohibited on the Common to deter riders.

School Visit
The Anakie State School is an active hub for sport and recreation in the Gemfields. The School has an athletics track and sports field (cricket pitch and nets), playgrounds and two tennis/netball/basketball courts.

The Principal is active in promoting physical activity in the local community, and regularly runs learn-to-swim classes at the Sapphire Pool. The size of the pool poses issues for running learn-to-swim classes, as only a limited number of kids can fit in the pool at the one time. This has implications for how many children can be taught in the program, and extends the time required to teach all interested children. Management also requires the program to be run outside of usual operating hours, subsequently restricting the program even further.

There is a need for additional out-of-school programs as well as a school holiday program for the local kids. There are issues with limited numbers of children and the team sports that can be played, subsequently individual activities are preferred (such as little athletics).

Club Sport Participation
Almost 60% of students were involved in club sport. Boys were involved in little athletics, rugby league and soccer; while girls participate in little athletics, swimming club and dance. The majority of these activities were undertaken in Emerald.

Sport and Recreation Likes
Due to the remoteness of the Gemfields and the large rural properties that most of the community live on, the children's preference for recreation were mostly home-based, informal activities. Swimming in their private dam and riding bikes on their property were the two most liked activities.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing
Skateboarding and roller skating were activities raised as an activity a number of the students would like to participate in that is not currently provided.

Future Directions
- there is a need for assistance in programming activities for individual participation in the Gemfields due to the lack of options to participate in team sports.
- develop a maintenance program for the open space areas of the Gemfields and communicate with the community.
- upgrade the ageing tennis courts at Allen King Memorial Park.
- investigate the installation of suitable modern lighting at either the School tennis courts or Allen King Memorial Park courts to allow for after-hour community use.
- investigate the potential to partner with the Anakie School to provide community sport and recreation opportunity.
- investigate the feasibility of the future development of a second oval at Roy Day Park.
- implement the Roy Day Park master plan.
- develop linkages for a signed Sapphire walking trail covering Kangoulool Park, DNRM reserve, Roy Day Park, Sapphire Cemetery, Nature Reserve and banks of Retreat Creek.
- develop and implement a master plan for the Willows Water Reserve area.
- develop and implement a master plan for the new Rubyvale central parklands.
- install shade over the Rubyvale Recreation Grounds playground and investigate opening the toilets during daylight hours.
- investigate the installation of youth elements in Roy Day Park.
Gemfields Open Space and Active Transport

Rubyvale

Sapphire

Willows

Anakie

Open Space Network
- Existing
- Future

Please note - the Gemfields has no current or proposed active transport needs
8.11 Rolleston

**Background Research**

**Literature Review**

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The community value the community oval, the sportsgounds and facilities, as well as the campdraft at the Showgrounds.

A short-term priority for Rolleston is improved facilities for children including playgrounds. Installation of outdoor gym equipment at the sports ground, and improved maintenance and extension of the pool are also high priorities.

Long-term priorities for the Rolleston community are the provision of more organised sports events, activities and facilities; upgrade of the pool to 15m, (including heating) and provision of adequate playground equipment.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

The community highlighted the importance of Beazley Park, the community oval, and the tennis courts.

A challenge for the future of the Rolleston community is continued access to a variety of sports. Following this, in the short-term, the community would like to see a paid sports coordinator/organiser to assist the community in delivering physical activity opportunities.

**Demographic and Population Considerations**

Rolleston has an estimated current population of 129 people.

Over 58.3% of Rolleston households are family households, and approximately 57% include couples with children.

The town has a high proportion of people aged between 25 to 44; however, less than half the state average of those aged 15 to 24.

**Current Provision**

**Open Space - Recreation**

Beazley Park

The Park is Rolleston’s town feature park and provides local recreation opportunities as well as catering for visitors with shade, amenity, electric barbecues, shelter and seating. The Park contains ageing infrastructure and some of the play equipment requires an upgrade due to current safety standards.

**Open Space - Sport**

Sports Oval

The Community Oval is a significant asset, maintained by the clubs. The Oval is in good condition.

There is a need to develop a clubhouse with amenities, change facilities and storage, adjoining the existing grandstand.

Future expansion of the facility is required to allow for the development of additional facilities. This expansion could also incorporate the relocation of the swimming pool to allow for shared use of facilities and allow for the much needed expansion of the pool.

**Tennis Courts**

There are two community tennis courts (one synthetic and one hard-court) with a small clubhouse but no amenities. There are issues with the court surface due to damage by tree roots. The asphalt court is in poor condition.

Rolleston State School

The School has netball and tennis courts that are both in poor condition. A covered multi-court and sports field are well used by the school.

Rolleston Swimming Pool

The pool is well used, however, has major condition and design issues including the depth and length of the pool. The facility is ageing and in need of an upgrade.

Rolleston Showgrounds

The Showgrounds are located on the outskirts of town and host campdraft, pony club and cutting.

The existing sports shed requires upgrading to meet user’s needs, including improved access and insulation.

**Active Transport**

Rolleston has limited off-road pathways within town, and there are missing links to key places including the School.

Additional pathways are required along the frontage of the School, pool and Community Oval.

A circuit pathway would suit the layout of this township and the east-west links would improve connectivity. Different route options should be investigated. There is an opportunity to provide better access to the river embankment and link important nodes such as the Rolleston Showgrounds to the school.

The Dawson Highway runs through Rolleston and creates an unsafe environment for pedestrians. This is of particular concern where the Highway passes Beazley Park.

**Consultation Summary**

**Household Survey**

Similar to Gemfields, the nine responses from Rolleston showed dissatisfaction (or neutrality) to all aspects of parks. However, satisfaction was highlighted for sporting fields and showgrounds/equestrian facilities.

**Community Meeting**

There are a number of key issues that were raised by the community:

- Beazley Park is well-used by locals and tourists as a rest stop. The playground is out-of-date and requires an upgrade as it is not safe. The Park adjoining the Dawson Highway and poses a safety risk as it is not fenced. The Park requires more regular maintenance.
- A cycling circuit for juniors and a small area with skate/bmx elements for younger children would be beneficial in Beazley Park.
- Beazley Park needs more tables and seating and an area for community and family gatherings.

Rolleston Swimming Pool

- The Rolleston Pool is too deep which means the water temperature is lower than it needs to be. The water temperature is only reasonable for approximately three months each year. The pool is also not long enough and learn-to-swim is difficult as there is no shallow end.
the change rooms and amenities are ageing and require a major upgrade. They contain a cold shower only and provide no non-slip surfaces. There is little shade or seating.

no rehabilitation facilities exist at the Springsure or Rolleston pools and no disabled access toilets either.

the opening hours of the pool are restricted due to staff deficiencies - the current operator also drives the school bus. This needs to be reviewed.

the pool is not heated and there are no programs such as water aerobics.

the Rolleston oval is in good condition and is used by junior rugby league, rugby union, cricket and touch football. The facility also has use by the School. The oval has a grandstand and ageing buildings.

the community oval becomes the hub of town when there is a game on.

a multi-purpose clubhouse is required with amenities, a flexible space that could be used for a gym and a playground.

the community require assistance from Council in the provision of a facilitator/programmer to help get activities off the ground.

girls currently travel to Springsure to compete in netball.

a lack of coaches and volunteers is a major issue, as it attracting enough children to participate.

the arena at the showgrounds is in need of re-surfacing as it is unsafe. Also, the arena fence is damaged and needs to be replaced.

the amenities at the showgrounds are used by truck drivers and the clubs need assistance from Council in regularly maintaining them.

there are limited sports available that are not equestrian-oriented.

there are no specific programs for the over 50's and there is a gap in facilities and programs for young adults.

the town needs beautification - opportunity for tree planting through the town centre and beautification of the river to create a town entrance.

the two tennis courts are well used but in need of an upgrade, and the shade tree in between the courts is lifting the court surface. There is the potential for one court to be developed into a multi-court for netball and basketball. There are no toilets at the tennis courts.

a walking circuit was requested for mums and prams, and children with bikes.

School netball courts could be upgraded and allow for public use.

School Visit

Participation in Club Sports

Over 80% of students participate in club sport. Girls participation in club sport was higher than that of the boys, with equestrian sports dominating the girls participation. The majority of girls also participated in swimming club, in the summer months.

The boys participation was highest in swimming, followed by campdraft and rugby league.

Sport and Recreation Likes

The students listed visiting the town park on weekends as a preferred activity. Riding a bicycle and swimming in the dam at home were also common activities. Students also used the Comet River for fishing.

Sport and Recreation That is Missing

The majority of the students mentioned their desire for a small skate and BMX park within town. The other responses mentioned the desire for a tennis club, soccer club and a football club.

Future Directions

- upgrade the existing sport shed at the Rolleston Showground by improving its access and insulation.
- investigate the feasibility of upgrading the Rolleston Pool to a more appropriate length and depth.
- Beaazley Park requires an upgrade:
  - playground needs to be upgraded
  - partial perimeter fencing to prevent children running onto the Highway
  - development of a junior cycle circuit
  - development of a small youth node with linear skate/BMX elements
  - additional tables and seating for family gatherings
  - consolidate signage at park entrance
- incorporating the Community Oval, develop a marked/signed town walking circuit that would include the linkage of the river frontage with the Showground and outdoor exercise equipment.
- re-develop the tennis hard-court to a multi-court (for tennis, netball and basketball) and assess the suitability of the tree at its current location.
- program the upgrade of the arena surface and fencing at the Showgrounds.
- consider opportunities for the former SES shed.
- the community require assistance from Council in the provision of a facilitator/programmer to help establish activities.
Rolleston Community Oval
Background Research

Literature Review

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The Springsure community values the skate park, tennis courts, showgrounds and sporting facilities. The variety of available sports is also highly valued, including tennis, football, horse sports, pony club and campdrafts.

Short-term priorities identified by the community include more activities for youth to engage with their peers and wider community; inclusion of elements that encourage social interaction, within sporting facilities; the upgrade of the skate park and showgrounds, and a local gym.

It was also requested that because of the high use by locals and visitors, Zamia Parklands be well maintained.

The community’s long-term priorities are centred around keeping the towns sporting clubs vibrant and open. Live music and community events were also high priorities.

The redevelopment of the Springsure skate park as a town entrance statement, with community recreation space including seating, shade and barbecues was also considered important.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

The outcomes of the community meeting largely reflect the survey report outcomes. In addition, the community highly value the voluntary work undertaken in the local area.

Short-term priorities include the desire for youth activities including a PCYG or gym. The community requested an upgrade of the pool as a longer term priority.

Springsure Showgrounds Master Plan 2011

The document aims to provide a coordinated, strategic approach to the future development of the site. The Plan provides priorities and future directions for the short-, medium- and long-term to guide Council’s budget allocations.

Demographic and Population Considerations

Springsure has an estimated total of 1,048 people living within the town and surrounding area.

Couples with children make up 42.5% of the Springsure population. Those aged 25 to 44 comprise almost 30% of the population.

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation

Springsure Skate Park

The skate park provides a new skate facility, however, the rest of the park is in poor repair. Located on the entrance to town, the site provides an entry statement which should be upgraded.

Zamia Parklands

The Parklands provide a linear corridor adjoining the creek and include Windmill Park and Rich Memorial Park. The Parklands are master planned, and provide recreation and amenity to locals and visitors. The area contains re-vegetation, and provides local history as an interest point through interpretative signage.

Lions Park

As a rest stop on the outside of town, Lions Park provides amenities (in poor condition), shelter and seating, barbecue, play elements and provides views to the adjoining Virgin Rock.

Open Space - Sport

Bauhinia Park Sports Complex/ Springsure Showgrounds

This Complex forms the sporting facility and showgrounds for the Springsure area. The site is home to rugby league, with one main field that is lit with a clubhouse and storage. A cricket pitch and practice nets are also on-site.

The Showgrounds has a fully lit main arena, with camping area, pavilions and stables.

A Master Plan was recently undertaken for the Showgrounds site.

Springsure Tennis Club

There are four fully lit synthetic grass tennis courts with clubhouse and rebound wall at the Springsure Tennis Club. The court surface require repairs.

Springsure Swimming Pool

The main pool is 25m with 6 lanes, and also provides a children’s pool, kiosk and storage sheds. The pool grounds are in need of maintenance and upgrade, however, the amenities and change rooms are modern.

Springsure Bowls Club

The bowling club has one green with lights and clubhouse.

Springsure Gun Club

The Clay Target Club has three lit ranges with a clubhouse, and shaded spectator area. The facility also has one Olympic range.

Equestrian facilities

In Springsure, there is a racecourse and active pony club. Additionally, a large campdraft is conducted at the Showgrounds.

Active Transport

Springsure has a reasonable network of off-road pathways connecting the community to the centre of town, local schools, and key open spaces. Key missing links have been identified and are shown on the adjacent map.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey

Nineteen responses were received from Springsure residents. Respondents were very satisfied with the number of parks, tennis courts and showgrounds/equestrian facilities. The key request is for upgrades to the aquatic centre.

Community Meeting

A number of issues were raised at the community meeting:

- residents travel to Emerald to participate in gymnastics. The Emerald facility is in need of an upgrade
- there is a high cost for athletes to travel for competitions. There is a need for Council to look at providing community grants or sponsorship to assist
- the community would like to see a small gym facility. There is equipment available, however, there is currently nowhere to use it up. It was suggested that the old Show Building at the showgrounds may be suitable
- the State Government has funded “Heartmove” - a program funded for 14
months across the Central Highlands focussing on community gardens, active adults, indigenous communities and a healthy eating program.

- Sportsure Junior Rugby League Club is experiencing strong numbers. In line with the Showgrounds Master Plan, the club still requires a clubhouse and gym area.
- The surface of the rugby league oval is in poor condition and requires significant work (including drainage).
- The Sportsure pool is in need of a future upgrade.
- Sportsure hosts a major campdraft event at the showgrounds.

**School Visit**

**Participation in Club Sport**
Every student interviewed participates in club sport outside of school. Rugby league and golf were the most popular sports for boys, with swimming and tennis the preference for girls.

**Sport and Recreation Likes**
The students noted that they like to visit the local parks, with the skate park a preferred facility. A number of students also reported that they visit Fairbairn Dam on the weekends.

**Sport and Recreation that is Missing**
When asked what activities are missing in Sportsure, students listed an athletics club, boxing and a larger swimming pool. They also have a desire for an indoor facility for netball and basketball, and to re-instate the volleyball court at the skate park.

**Future Directions**
- Continue to implement the Zamia Parkland: Master Plan (especially elements for older residents).
- Continue to implement the Sportsure Showgrounds Master Plan including recommendations for rugby league.
- Investigate the feasibility of providing regular programs and the allocation of a part-time Council officer to assist in facilitation.
- Upgrade the community elements of the skate park, including an upgrade of the basketball and volleyball courts, landscaping, provision of seating and shelter.
- Investigate the need for a future upgrade of the pool.
- Investigate opportunities to develop a suitable rest stop for tourists within the main township of Sportsure (potential locations may include showgrounds or Zamia Parklands).
place-based considerations

8.13 Tieri

Background Research

Literture Review

Central Highlands 2022 - Survey Report

The community is proud of the high quality sport and recreation opportunities available. Short-term priorities include further embellishment of the Youth Centre, additional sporting groups and enhanced maintenance of parks and the bmx track.

Central Highlands 2022 - Community Meeting

Key projects identified by the community meeting include heating the pool and extending the operating hours, ensuring activities for youth are available over the school holidays and developing exercise equipment at Lions Park.

Demographic and Population Considerations

There are approximately 2,012 people currently living within Tieri and surrounding rural area.

Tieri is a relatively young community, with almost 40% of the population aged between 25 and 44. The town has significantly low rates of people aged over 65, (with only 1.8% as compared to 13.2% for the State). The median age of Tieri is low (29) when compared to the State (36).

Current Provision

Open Space - Recreation

Crinum Park

Crinum Park is an entry statement park with visitor information and seating.

Lions Park

Lions Park is the feature recreation park for the town. It has a wide range of well-maintained embellishments including shaded playground, pathways, picnic facilities, natural and built shade and re-vegetated creek corridor.

The Park also provides a key link between the town centre and Oval No. 2.

Leisure Precinct

The Leisure Precinct includes the pool (6-lane 50m), skate facility, Sports and Recreation Centre and bmx track. The Precinct is generally well-maintained.

Gum Street (Unnamed park)

This small fenced park includes two wood-fire barbecues and lights.

Additional undeveloped parks are located on:
- Aquarius Street
- Emwapple Street
- Malvern Avenue
- Scorpio Street
- Talga Avenue
- Taurus Street (two lots).

Open Space - Sport

Oval No. 1

This premier facility includes two lit full-size rectangular fields, clubhouse, covered spectator's areas, commentator's box and scoreboard.

Oval No. 2

This facility includes an old (demountable) style clubhouse and amenities, two cricket practice nets, quality lit field with synthetic cricket pitch (and touch fields).

Carbeen Sports Area (tennis and basketball)

This facility includes three lit outdoor basketball courts (in poor condition), four lit synthetic tennis courts, re-bound wall, playground, clubhouse and shaded seating.

Active Transport

Tieri currently has an extensive network of walk/cycle paths linking key community facilities and residential areas.

Consultation Summary

Household Survey

Twelve responses were received from Tieri. Respondents were generally satisfied with the number of parks, maintenance and shade provision. Further, the aquatic centre and sporting fields were appreciated.

Community Drop-in

Key issues highlighted during the drop-in session included:
- the community expects the high level of facility provision currently enjoyed to be retained
- ensure maintenance resources are allocated to retain high-level standards
- older youth get bored when they are in Tieri - programming and additional challenging facilities should be considered
- limited formal opportunities for young girls in town
- the tennis facility is an important community asset and needs ongoing upgrades
- Planning Scheme stakeholder workshop (March 2013) identified that young people have a particular interest in touch, netball, golf, dance and gymnastics. Additionally, the need for a youth drop-in space was identified.

School Visit

Club Sport Participation

Almost 70% of students were involved in club sport, for boys, rugby league, motocross (at Middlemount) and swimming were popular. Swimming, tennis and golf were preferred sports for girls.

Sport and Recreation Likes

The Leisure Precinct (particularly the pool and skatepark) are the preferred areas for play within Tieri.

The Town Common is also a popular place for recreation - an area for building cubby houses and jumps for bmx bikes.

Sport and Recreation that is Missing

Key future requests by the students included more challenging play, indoor rock climbing wall and a legal motorcross facility.

Additional Stakeholders

Tieri Sports and Recreation Centre

The Centre hosts formal indoor netball, yoga and karate classes. Additionally, the Centre owns a range of quality gymnastics equipment - but without a qualified coach the equipment sits idle.

The most popular facility within the Centre is the gymnasium (that includes a cardio room, spin room, weights area and squash court).
A range of youth activities are also conducted including discos, holiday program, pool, table tennis and games room.

Finally, the Centre also provides ancillary services such as creche and playgroup.

XStrata Oaky Creek Coal

Quality sport and recreation facilities are used as attraction and retention tools for staff by XStrata - hence the high quality provision. Unfortunately, this causes some concern for Council where lower levels of facility maintenance/provision are the norm.

XStrata is considering developing a consolidated sporting precinct based around a Country Club concept. The initial concept is for the facility to be located around Oval No. 1 and the Bowls Club. Proposed new facilities include three tennis courts, netball court, basketball court, volleyball court, squash courts, gymnasium, car parking, golf cart parking and community clubhouse.

Further, the proposal involves relocating the gymnasium from the Sports and Recreation Centre and redeveloping the facility as a youth facility.

XStrata will also be developing a toddler’s pool within the pool complex in the short-term.

If Council chooses to dispose of undeveloped open space, XStrata is likely to be interested in the land for accommodation purposes.

Council

Council has a number of developments planned for the sport and recreation areas within Tieri:

- Crinum Park - upgraded barbecue and picnic facilities, consider toilet facilities if the park proves popular
- Undeveloped open space - Tieri does not require additional recreation spaces. Undeveloped land can be reallocated as an alternate land use.

Future Directions

- liaise with XStrata Oaky Creek Coal to consider future sport opportunities in Tieri (especially for girls who currently have limited opportunities girls)
- investigate opportunities to reallocate undeveloped open space where the land does not form key linkages
- develop a master plan for the Lions Park and Oval No.2 sport and recreation node
- consider opportunities to establish dance classes within the town
- investigate retention and upgrading of the bmx facility.
9.0 Open Space Strategic Framework

9.1 Planning Scheme Matters

Zoning is fundamental to developing the new Planning Scheme. The Queensland Planning Provisions provide Council with two suitable zoning options to distinguish between public space provision across the local government area. These zones are sub-zones of the Recreation Zone information in the Queensland Planning Provision.

The recreation zones employed are the Sport and Recreation zone and the Open Space zone. As zoning data within the proposed Planning Scheme should represent the desired end state situation, there may be additional zones employed to the existing open space supply. These are decided on a case-by-case basis and consider surrounding land uses, open space demand projections, geographic and land constraints and other social inputs. For the purpose of incorporating results from this Plan into Council’s planning instruments, namely the proposed Planning Scheme and PIP, the table below is used as a guide, but requires further assessment at a site level.

These amendments have been considered and are provided in the raw mapping data provided to Council separately. Additionally, Council will need to consider these recommendations and their impact on other planning matters and balance any conflicts between recommendations across other planning studies currently being undertaken or proposed.

Council’s Preliminary Draft Planning Scheme has determined to use one zone for the open space network, as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Type</th>
<th>Hierarchy (sub-type)</th>
<th>Proposed Planning Scheme Land Use Zone (based on OPP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Parks</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sportgrounds and Courts</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialised Sport and Recreation</td>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aquatic</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specialised</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Open Space</td>
<td>Amenity</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Utility</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban Bushland</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Corridors</td>
<td>District - Regional</td>
<td>Recreation and Open Space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.2 Priority Infrastructure Plan Matters

This Plan provides sufficient information relating to the public parks network for Council to include in its development of the Central Highlands Regional Council PIP. The PIP is only concerned with parks that are considered ‘trunk infrastructure’. These being:

- local recreation parks
- district recreation parks
- regional recreation parks
- district sports parks
- regional sports parks.

These park types only make a small portion (approximately 5%) of the open space network. More information of each of the park types can be found on pages 41 to 67, the information in this section summarises the park typology information using the generic format found in the Statutory Guideline 81/11: Priority Infrastructure Plans. A number of elements are required to be pulled together. Some of these have been developed external to this Plan and others are found in this report, including:

- planning assumptions - Council has completed these population projections external to this Plan, however, they have been used to generate demand and gap assessment information. If changes are made to the planning assumptions, these will need to be reapplied to the public parks network.
- priority infrastructure area (PIA) - Council will confirm its PIA. Once complete, this will need to be applied to the data in this Plan to calculate the proportioned areas of public parks across the LGA. This will also assist in developing infrastructure charges at a later stage.
- demand generation - demand has been calculated based on the planning assumptions.
- desired standards of service (DSS) - DSS is the level of provision of parks that Council strives to provide as a minimum to all residents across the thirteen places of the local government area. DSS are categorised under four broad measures:
  - quantity of land supply (based on ha/1,000 population)
  - accessibility to public parks
  - land characteristics
  - level of embellishments/park infrastructure.
- plans for trunk infrastructure (PFTI) - The PFTI’s for each urban area within the Central Highlands Region will need to be developed based on the current supply, demand, and gap analysis.
9.3 Demand Generation

Demand for public parks is based on the residential population (as per the planning assumptions found on the place-based considerations on pages 69 to 109). However, a number of social and geographical inputs that affect what on-ground demand is generated for parks, include:

- the age and population distribution
- housing type and access to private open space
- housing density
- geographic inputs such as location to urban centres outside the local government area and natural and man-made geographic influences.

For these reasons, and others, it is recommended that demand for the different type of trunk infrastructure parks be assessed according to the data in the following Table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Type</th>
<th>Catchment</th>
<th>Development Types</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Recreation Park</td>
<td>Individual Catchment</td>
<td>Urban Areas Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Recreation Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>All Zones</td>
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<tr>
<td>District Sportsgrounds and Courts</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Recreation Park</td>
<td>Across all Catchments (whole LGA)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Sportsgrounds and Courts</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.4 Other Planning Matters

Other considerations that should be considered in developing the proposed Planning Scheme, from an open space perspective, include:

- incorporate the guiding principles (strategic vision) and desired standards of service from this Plan in the proposed Planning Scheme and PIP
- state forests and national parks are excluded from this Plan. It would normally be recommended that these lands be zoned as Environmental Management and Conservation. Where the nature areas are of significant conservation value they also should be zoned Environmental Management and Conservation
- community facilities have only been recorded where they fall within the open space network. In these instances, the facilities should be zoned within the recreation land use zones. However, if the facility is significant, Council may choose to review the recommendation and employ the Community Purposes zone
- the Desired Regional Outcomes from the Central Queensland Regional Plan (once developed) in relation to open space should be incorporated in the strategic outcomes and land use zone codes
- consideration to the preferred method of how to include the recreation outcomes of valued linear corridors in planning documents, especially in the PIP. Council is able to charge for linear parks, particularly where multiple networks are involved if the land serves a utility stormwater function as well as the parks and transport (pedestrian) function.
Implementation of actions outlined in this Plan will require strong leadership, appropriate resourcing and a commitment from Council to making some difficult decisions.

Priorities are assigned for each action. A high priority recommendation should be undertaken as soon as resources allow, while medium (in the next 5 years) and low priorities (in the next 5-20 years) are not as urgent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus Area 1: Policies and Documents</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Intended Outcome:</strong> Policies and documents are developed and updated to promote Council’s support for open space, sport and recreation and to guide decision-making processes from Council and the community</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. Corporate Planning and Integration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Ensure Council’s Corporate Plan (and other strategic documents e.g. Central Highlands Community Plan 2022) reflects Council’s commitment to all facets of open space, sport and recreation</td>
<td>To ensure that the strategic vision of the Open Space and Recreation Plan has a key place within Council’s corporate framework</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Ensure the recommendations of the Open Space and Recreation Plan are included within Council’s proposed Planning Scheme and Priority Infrastructure Plan</td>
<td>To ensure the implementation of the Plan’s recommendations and consistency with its vision for open space, sport and recreation</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Policies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2.1</td>
<td>Develop a range of policies to further enhance the provision of open space, sport and recreation. Policies include: Land Tenure, Funding Support to Sports Organisations, Sports Facility Signage, Liaising with Schools to Foster Community Use</td>
<td>To strengthen Council’s position and to provide clear guidance to organisations</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2</td>
<td>Develop a consistent policy for fees, charges, maintenance and support mechanisms for community organisations/committees that reflects the income potential and community benefit of organisations. This policy needs to consider existing formal and informal arrangements and align them over time. It is important that any new maintenance arrangements are offered to sport and recreation providers rather than forced. (There are a number of community groups currently maintaining their facilities to an appropriate standard)</td>
<td>To ensure consistency and equity across clubs and provide clear direction of Council services</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.3 Strategic and Operational Documents</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.1</td>
<td>Prepare a Sports Club Manual</td>
<td>To ensure a transparent and equitable process exists for the management and maintenance of sports facilities and to outline to clubs the appropriate Council contacts to address the various sport and recreation related issues</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.2</td>
<td>Asset management plans should be developed for all of Council’s sport and recreation infrastructure across the Region. This asset management plan will provide a program of works to maintain the assets in the most cost effective manner and will ensure that programmed maintenance, rather than reactive maintenance, is undertaken for all facilities. It is also important that the asset management plan reflects facility usage— Council should not pour valuable resources into facilities that are no longer required by the community</td>
<td>To ensure Council’s open space, sport and recreation assets are appropriately maintained, allowing the maximum life of each asset</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.3</td>
<td>Develop a lighting strategy for open spaces - Council to develop a Sports Field Lighting Program across the Region</td>
<td>To meet CPTED principles and to increase the community’s perception of safety in and around open space areas at night</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Rationale</td>
<td>Priority</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.3.4</td>
<td>Develop a signage strategy for open space, sport and recreation areas</td>
<td>To develop a suite of like-signage across open space areas that creates a sense of welcome and pride and to provide a tool for replacing existing poor signage</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.5</td>
<td>Prepare and implement a physical activity strategy</td>
<td>As identified in the 2007 Emerald Open Space and Recreation Plan, the strategy is required to set Council’s direction in relation to the provision of physical activity programs across the Region</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.6</td>
<td>Prepare and implement skate and BMX strategy</td>
<td>To ensure appropriate provision of skate and BMX facilities across the LGA that meet the needs of the community. To ensure individual facilities offer appropriate embellishments and ancillary facilities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td><strong>Work Instructions and Processes</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.1</td>
<td>Review the Open Space and Recreation Plan regularly (commencing in 2014/15)</td>
<td>To ensure this important strategic document continues to meet Council and community need</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.2</td>
<td>Conduct an annual club survey</td>
<td>To ensure Council understands club membership, club development initiatives and key issues impacting clubs</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.3</td>
<td>Develop a work instruction for dealing with Infrastructure Requests</td>
<td>As land owner or Trustee of Crown Land, Council needs to ensure that infrastructure is appropriate, well designed and soundly constructed. Facilities also need to be managed and maintained in a safe and sustainable manner. Council should not necessarily commit itself to being the provider of all facilities, and should develop an approach that maximises available budget for priority projects.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.4</td>
<td>Conduct a biennial club forum</td>
<td>To encourage networking opportunities and ensure Council can appropriately disseminate necessary information and promote programs and services.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.5</td>
<td>Consider the establishment of a Physical Activity Officer position (see 1.3.5)</td>
<td>To ensure Council provides a range of quality physical activity programs across the region</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4.6</td>
<td>Consider employing a landscape architect to oversee the development of internal open space projects</td>
<td>To ensure that the open space network incorporates modern open space planning principles</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Focus Area 2: Facility Feasibility, Business Planning, and Facilities Management**

**Intended Outcome:** Appropriate preliminary facility planning occurs to ensure the suitability of proposed upgrades and development.

<p>| 2.1 | <strong>Feasibility Studies</strong> | | |
| 2.1.1 | Investigate opportunities to purchase and develop a large site (10-20ha) for future active open space development within Emerald | To ensure quality supply of active open space land in Emerald | High |
| 2.1.2 | Investigate the feasibility of redeveloping the Rolleston Swimming Pool on Council land adjoining the Community Oval (see 3.2.62) | To address the current issues with the pool, and to provide future efficiencies in the development of supporting infrastructure at the Oval | High |
| 2.1.3 | Investigate the feasibility of developing a high-level recreation precinct within Morton Park (see 3.2.50) | To ensure appropriate provision of recreation opportunities across the LGA | High |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus Area 3: Facility Maintenance, Upgrades and Renewal</td>
<td><strong>Facility Maintenance, Upgrades and Renewal</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increase maintenance standards for playing fields and sports facilities which have multiple users i.e. McIndoe Park and Hunter Street Sport Complex</td>
<td>As outlined in the 2007 Open Space Plan, increased maintenance standards at shared use facilities can reduce the impacts caused by the over-use of fields</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>To commence asset maintenance upgrades, implement the recommendations included in the Asset Management Plans (see 1.3.2)</td>
<td>As recommended in the 2007 Plan, required to ensure quality embellishments are available at open space, sport and recreation areas across the Region</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Give funding priority to sports grounds which have summer and winter tenants, and/or are shared by more than one user group</td>
<td>To provide benefit to the maximum amount of clubs/users</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tenant clubs to pay for additional maintenance over and above the agreed maintenance standard for that sports ground</td>
<td>To allow Council to focus on core maintenance activities for the whole Region</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consider taking Councillors and key Council officers on a 'bus tour' of open space, sport and recreation areas to highlight the existing range of aging and poorly maintained facilities</td>
<td>To ensure key stakeholders understand the current facility condition across the open space network</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review annual budget allocations for sport and recreation purposes to ensure adequate funding is available for the development and management of facilities and program provision. Council funding should also be used to attract external funding from sources such as the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Additionally, Council should consider alternative funding arrangements to fund some of the new facilities and facility upgrades recommended in this Plan. For example, opportunity exists for Council to think outside its current policies to include approaches such as public/private partnerships</td>
<td>To ensure the open space, sport and recreation needs of both the current and future community are met</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify a suite of park furniture (including benches, picnic facilities and shade structures) to be systematically established in open space areas</td>
<td>To ensure consistency across the network and streamline maintenance processes</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seek annual allocation of Council funds to establish a grants assistance program to contribute towards open space, sport and recreation projects.</td>
<td>To ensure Council are able to meet any partial funding contributions required for grant applications</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establish maintenance standards of provision for each playing field under its care and control, such as frequency of mowing, watering regime, coring, top dressing and fertilising</td>
<td>To ensure that maintenance is undertaken in line with the requirements of each facility and to provide the clubs an understanding of when certain maintenance activities can be expected to occur</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continue to budget for and action the key recommendations contained within existing master plans including Zamia Parklands, Springure Showgrounds, McIndoe Park, Hunter Street Sporting Complex, Blackwater Equestrian Precinct and Blackwater Youth Precinct</td>
<td>To ensure the development of facilities in line with the community's expectations</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 3.2 Place-Specific Facility Upgrades and Renewals

#### Arcadia Valley

| 3.2.1  | Support the Arcadia Valley School in the ongoing maintenance/upgrade of sport and recreation facilities | To ensure the Arcadia Valley community are provided with adequate open space, sport and recreation facilities | Ongoing |

#### Bauhinia

| 3.2.2  | Replace the shade sail over the playground at the Bauhinia Sports Complex | To provide shade for users of the playground | High |
| 3.2.3  | Investigate the development of permanent toilet facilities at the Bauhinia Sports Complex | To improve amenity and provide more hygienic facilities for those attending events | Medium |
| 3.2.3  | Upgrade the playground at the Bauhinia Community Hall | To ensure the community have access to basic recreation opportunities | Medium |
| 3.2.4  | Investigate storage options at the Bauhinia Sports Complex | To allow the safe keeping of the Club's infrastructure | Medium |

#### Blackwater

| 3.2.5  | Relocate the Blackwater pool complex to the vicinity of the Hunter Street Sports Complex | To consolidate sporting facilities and provide an ability to expand this infrastructure | High |
| 3.2.6  | Seek funding to develop a new youth facility in Blackwater | To provide the young people of Blackwater with appropriate activities for recreation and social interaction | High |
| 3.2.7  | Allocate appropriate budgets to implement the recommendations from the Hunter Street Sporting Complex, Youth Precinct and Equestrian Precinct master plans | To ensure ongoing development of each site | High |
| 3.2.8  | Establish a new access to the Blackwater Motocross facility off Turpentine Street | To provide legal and safe access | High |
| 3.2.9  | Upgrade the amenities at Lions Park | To ensure locals and visitors to the Park have access to modern amenities | High |
| 3.2.10 | Continue to implement the recommendations of the Blackwater Open Space and Town Streetscape Strategy, particularly the walking loops and outdoor exercise equipment | To provide the community with key open space outcomes, particularly the provision of safe walking and exercise loops | Medium |
| 3.2.11 | Continue to implement the Bedford Weir Concept Plan | To provide the community and visitors with appropriate recreation and camping opportunities | Medium |
| 3.2.12 | Identify a suitable site and centralise tennis within Blackwater | To provide the community with a centralised facility | Medium |
| 3.2.13 | Develop and adopt master plans for Lions Park, Rotary Park, Dempsey Park and B.L. Boase Recreation Complex. Once adopted, allocate appropriate budgets for identified capital works | To ensure the future development of each site is in line with the community’s needs | Ongoing |
| 3.2.14 | Rationalise the over-supply of undeveloped open space in Blackwater | To ensure appropriate supply for Council maintenance and appropriate areas for future residential development | Ongoing |

#### Bluff

<p>| 3.2.15 | Develop a walking circuit within the Bluff Sport and Recreation Area | To provide the community with a designated exercise circuit | High |
| 3.2.16 | Develop a master plan for Lions Park in Bluff, taking into consideration additional play, shaded seating, picnic facilities, netball and basketball rings | To provide future direction for the development of the Park, in line with the needs of the community | Medium |
| 3.2.17 | Continue the pathway along Church Street to Lions Park | To provide the community with easy access to Lions Park | Medium |</p>
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<th>Capella</th>
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<td><strong>3.2.19</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3.2.35</strong></td>
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| 3.2.36 | Develop additional walk/cycle paths to create key loops  
- town loop - along Alice, King and Edward Streets,  
- and the Capricorn Highway  
- continue the existing paths along Margaret,  
  Charlotte and Alice Streets to King Street | To provide the community with safe off-road recreation and exercise loops | Medium |
| 3.2.37 | Consider the need to retain the Swamp Oaks cricket facility, and potentially re-design the open space | To provide the young people of Duaringa with additional opportunities for sport and recreation | Low |
| **Emerald** |  |  |  |
| 3.2.38 | Investigate a suitable site for the future home of gymnastics in Emerald | To provide a wide range of quality sport and recreation opportunities | High |
| 3.2.39 | Review existing and proposed sport and recreation facilities in Emerald for potential co-location of groups to optimise utilisation of facilities | To ensure efficient use of facilities | High |
| 3.2.40 | Investigate acquisition of a green link from Morton Park south to the western side of McLindoe Park | To provide appropriate walk/cycle opportunities | High |
| 3.2.41 | Provide internal walking tracks, bird watching facilities and an interpretive centre including storage and training room (weed management and other topics related to land care) at Rifle Range Nature Reserve | To provide a wide range of quality sport and recreation opportunities | High |
| 3.2.42 | Investigate a long-term goal to establish walkway from Nogoa River (Botanic Garden) along the western wild life corridor to Rifle Range Nature Reserve then down to the irrigation channel. This will involve some revegetation | To provide appropriate walk/cycle opportunities | High |
| 3.2.43 | Develop a master plan and future directions paper for Motor Sports in Emerald | To ensure a strategic approach to the provision and long-term development of motorsport | High |
| 3.2.44 | Investigate opportunities to develop a two-court indoor sports facility (with opportunity for gymnastics and trampolining) within Emerald. Council should look for a site where the ongoing maintenance and management can be shared.A potential partnership is Marist College who have identified the need for an indoor facility | To provide the community with enhanced indoor sport and recreation opportunities, in a resource efficient manner | High |
| 3.2.45 | Need for additional sports facilities - multi-field sports of 10-20ha (particularly, the deficiency is currently for cricket. Council should investigate opportunities to establish a quality home for this sport). Opportunity may exist to begin to meet this need with development at the northern end of Chalceldeny Road | To provide for the active sporting needs of the community | High |
| 3.2.46 | Undertake a CPTED audit of all local parks in Emerald | To ensure they support the safety of the community | High |
| 3.2.47 | Undertake a rationalisation of poorly located local recreation parks including Margaret Gibson Park | To allow for the provision of quality open space, sport and recreation facilities, with appropriate access | High |
| 3.2.48 | Provide existing pathways around Emerald with shade, water and rest stops | To provide a safe and pleasant experience for path users | High |
| 3.2.49 | Consider opportunities to develop a skate facility in one of the new open space areas being developed on the southern side of Emerald | To ensure a range of recreation facilities are available for the community | High |
| 3.2.50 | Undertake a master plan for Morton Park given the relocation of netball. Master plan to include:  
- an upgrade of embellishments and supporting infrastructure at the skate park  
- investigation of the feasibility for a purpose-built walking, cycling and fitness track within the northern area of the Park  
- improvement of the tourism and recreation precinct adjoining the visitor information centre  
- confirmation of future sports to be included (see 2.1.3) | To provide direction for the future development of the site | High |
<p>| 3.2.51 | Ensure asset renewal in parks reflects best practice to create a diversity of opportunity | To ensure a diverse, modern open space network | Medium |
| 3.2.52 | Upgrade the Emerald skate park to include supporting infrastructure such as shade, seating, water and other youth elements to maximise its use | To provide the users of the skate park with appropriate supporting facilities and enhance their recreation experience | Medium |
| 3.2.53 | Continue development of the Emerald Botanic Gardens including expansion of a “looped” walking and cycling track from Selma Weir to the Town Weir | To provide the community with a recreation trail experience in close proximity to town | Medium |
| <strong>Gemfields</strong> | | | |
| 3.2.54 | Develop linkages for a signed Sapphire walking trail covering Kangoulo Park, DNRM reserve, Roy Day Park, Sapphire Cemetery, Nature Reserve and banks of Retreat Creek | To provide appropriate walk/cycle opportunities | High |
| 3.2.55 | Develop and implement a master plan for the Willows Water Reserve area | To provide direction for the future development of the site | High |
| 3.2.56 | Develop and implement a master plan for the new Rubyvale central parklands | To provide direction for the future development of the site | |
| 3.2.57 | Investigate the provision of regular programs and the allocation of a part-time Council officer to assist in facilitation (see 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4) | To provide the community with a range of sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities | High |
| 3.2.58 | Consider contributing to the maintenance of the Anakie School's sport and recreation facilities | To ensure the ongoing provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities within the Gemfields | High |
| 3.2.59 | Upgrade the tennis courts at Allen King Memorial Park | To provide the community with quality tennis facilities | Medium |
| 3.2.60 | Investigate the installation of lighting at either the Anakie State School tennis courts or upgraded Allen King Memorial Park courts for after-hour use | To provide the community with quality tennis facilities | Medium |
| 3.2.61 | Develop a maintenance program for open space in the Gemfields and communicate with the community | To provide the community with a clear expectation of maintenance services | Medium |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rolleston</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2.62 Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the Rolleston Pool to a more appropriate length and depth, and the relocation of the pool to adjoin the Community Oval to allow for the consolidation of facilities including amenities, clubhouse, kiosk and storage (see 2.1.2)</td>
<td>To ensure the community have appropriate access to suitable facilities that meet their needs, and to address the current issues with the pool, and to provide future efficiencies in the development of supporting infrastructure at the Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.63 Master plan Bealey Park with consideration of upgrading the playground, partial perimeter fencing to prevent children running onto the Highway, development of a junior cycle circuit, small youth node with skate/ bmx elements, additional tables and seating for family gatherings and consolidate signage at park entrance</td>
<td>To provide the community and visitors with appropriate recreation facilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.64 Investigate the provision of regular programs and the allocation of a part-time Council officer to assist in facilitation (see 5.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4)</td>
<td>To provide the community with a range of sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.65 Program the upgrade of the arena surface and fencing at the Showgrounds</td>
<td>To provide a safe facility for user groups and the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.66 Upgrade the existing sport shed at the Rolleston Showground (including access and insulation)</td>
<td>To provide a safe facility for user groups and the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.67 Incorporate the Community Oval, into the development of a marked/signed town walking circuit with outdoor exercise equipment (also include access along the river embankment)</td>
<td>To provide the community with a safe, off-road walking/ exercise circuit</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.68 Redevelop the tennis hard-court to a multi-court (for tennis, netball and basketball) and assess the suitability of the tree at its current location</td>
<td>To provide enhanced recreation and sport opportunities for the community</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<tr>
<th>Springsure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.2.69 Continue to implement the Springsure Showgrounds Master Plan</td>
<td>To provide the community with enhanced opportunities for sport and recreation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.70 Investigate the need for a future upgrade of the pool</td>
<td>To ensure the ongoing provision of well-maintained recreation facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.71 Upgrade the community elements of the skate park, including the upgrade of the basketball and volleyball courts, landscaping, provision of seating and shelter</td>
<td>To promote community use of the Park and provide enhanced recreation opportunities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.72 Upgrade the tennis court surfaces</td>
<td>To ensure access to quality tennis facilities</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.73 Upgrade the amenities at Lions Park</td>
<td>To provide suitable facilities for locals and visitors</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.74 Continue to implement the Zamia Parklands Master Plan</td>
<td>To provide the community with enhanced recreation opportunities in line with their documented needs</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.2.75 Investigate track and building upgrades required at the Springsure Racecourse</td>
<td>To provide upgraded facilities for the community</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>Tier</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Outcomes</td>
<td>Priority</td>
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<td>3.2.76</td>
<td>Liaise with XStrata Oaky Creek Coal to consider future sport opportunities in Tieri (particularly XStrata's Country Club proposal)</td>
<td>To ensure the best use of community open space</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.77</td>
<td>Develop a master plan for the Lions Park and Oval No.2 sport and recreation node</td>
<td>To provide direction for the future development of the sites</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.78</td>
<td>Investigate opportunities to reallocate undeveloped open space where the land does not form key linkages</td>
<td>To limit maintenance of over-supplied open space</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Focus Area 4: Club Development, Education and Training**

**Intended Outcome:** A range of appropriate resources are available to guide and assist clubs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.1</th>
<th>Club Development</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1</td>
<td>Develop a communication package from Council to inform club office bearers of key Council contacts, responsibilities and processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Prepare and implement a strategy to enable community based clubs to attract and retain volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Develop templates to assist clubs prepare club development plans, feasibility studies and business plans</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Focus Area 5: Communication, Promotion and Marketing**

**Intended Outcome:** To increase current communication, promotion and marketing.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>5.1</th>
<th>Communication, Promotion and Marketing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1</td>
<td>Develop (and regularly update) a database of sport and recreation organisation contact details from annual surveys</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.1.2</td>
<td>Investigate a forum section within an appropriate Sport and Recreation section of Council's website to provide regular information and updates to clubs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Focus Area 6: Recreation and Physical Activity**

**Intended Outcome:** Delivery and promotion of a range of physical activity programs.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>6.1</th>
<th>Physical Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1.1</td>
<td>Continue to build upon existing partnerships with community organisations, Government Departments (Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, Queensland Health, Education Queensland) and professionals delivering recreation activity programs, information and advice to expand, target and promote appropriate programs (e.g. walking, community recreation, physical activity and school holiday programs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.2</td>
<td>Consider the establishment of a Physical Activity Officer's position</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1.3</td>
<td>Develop sport, recreation and physical activity programs and services targeted at young females in towns such as Dingo, Duaringa, Rolleston, Bauhinia, Springsure, Bluff, Blackwater</td>
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<td>6.1.4</td>
<td>Trial the delivery of an affordable physical activity program (using external providers and partnerships) across the Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1.5</td>
<td>Continue to conduct a wide range of programs and activities based at Council’s aquatic centres and pools</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1.6</td>
<td>Develop an event support and sponsorship program</td>
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</table>

**Focus Area 7: Funding**

**Intended Outcome:** Council and Clubs are aware of funding opportunities to off-set the costs of program delivery and infrastructure development.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>7.1</th>
<th><strong>Funding</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1.1</td>
<td>In conjunction with the Central Highlands Development Corporation, seek opportunities for funding of open space, sport and recreation projects from local commercial operators (including mining companies) and promote to the Region's community organisations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>